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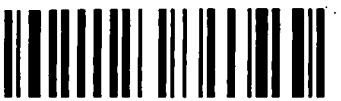
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Balgowhina Venayek Wassoodeo

A PLAIN AND SHORT

HISTORY OF ENGLAND,

FOR

CHILDREN:

IN LETTERS FROM A FATHER TO HIS SON.

WITH A

SET OF QUESTIONS

AT THE END OF EACH LETTER.

BY

GEORGE DAVYS, D.D.

LATE BISHOP OF PETERBOROUGH.

NEW EDITION.

RIVINGTONS,

London, Oxford, and Cambridge.

1871.

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A PLAIN AND SHORT

HISTORY OF ENGLAND

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WATERLOO PLACE, PALL MALL, LONDON,

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LETTER 1.

MY DEAR BOY,

As you are likely to be absent from me for a considerable time, I know you will be glad to hear from me frequently;—and, that my Letters may not be entirely unprofitable to you, I intend to send you something like a History of England,—our own country: it will be but a short one, yet it may do instead of a longer, till you grow bigger. Now, as you are, at present, but a very little gentleman, you must expect me to tell you about some very little matters,—such, however, as little people are not always acquainted with.—And first I shall tell you that Great Britain is an "island," which perhaps you know very well already; and you know also that an "island" means "a piece of land wholly surrounded by water."

By "Great Britain" we mean England, Scotland, and Wales. Look at your map, and you will see that *Scotland* is the most northern part of

the island, and that *Wales* is on the western side. *Ireland*, too, makes a part of our nation, but *that*, you will see, is a distinct island, lying across the sea, on the left hand, or west of us: so that, if you or I wanted to go to Scotland, or Wales, we might go in a stage-coach[1]; but if we wanted to go to Ireland, we must go in a ship.

France lies to the south of us, across that part of the sea which is called the "British Channel," within a few hours' sail. The French were formerly called Gauls; and the Roman emperor, Julius Cæsar, who was a great warrior, more than eighteen hundred years ago, got possession of the greater part of France, or Gaul; and, not content with that, he must needs send over his troops to take possession of our little island too. This was the beginning of the Roman power in England. The Britons were, in those days, a very different sort of people from what they are now. They had nothing better for clothing than the skins of beasts; and such of their limbs as were not covered, they painted blue. Some people may, perhaps, tell you that they were a very mild, and

[1] Not so easily now, as when this little history was first written.

gentle, and harmless set of people;—but don't believe a word of it. These good dispositions do not come naturally; they come from right education, and true religion; and, as these people had neither, you may depend upon it that they were a very fierce and savage race.

But still they were a brave people; and the *Romans*, you may be sure, did not get possession of our island without a great deal of struggling and fighting; however, they kept a sort of possession here for about four hundred years.

Then after the Romans came the *Saxons*, a people from Germany. The English had, very foolishly, sent for the Saxons to help them against their troublesome neighbours the Picts and the Scots, who lived in the northern part of the island; and, when once these Saxons had got into England, they were not willing to go out again, liking our fruitful country better than their own. These people, after a time, divided England into seven different kingdoms, which were called the *Saxon Heptarchy*[1]. Things continued in this state for about four hundred years more; and then Egbert,

[1] *Heptarchy* means seven kingdoms. Hepta is a Greek word, which means *seven*.

the king of the West Saxons, united all the seven together, and made them one kingdom.

I shall now write down the names of the Saxon kings that followed. It will be useful for you to try to remember these kings, though I do not mean to say much about them: but we must be more particular in our account of those kings who lived in times nearer to our own.

SAXON KINGS BEFORE THE CONQUEST.

1 Egbert.
2 Ethelwolf.
3 Ethelbald.
4 Ethelbert.
5 Ethelred I.
6 Alfred.
7 Edward I.
8 Athelstane.
9 Edmund I.
10 Edred.
11 Edwy.
12 Edgar.
13 Edward II.
14 Ethelred II.
15 Edmund II. (*Ironside.*)

During the reign of these Saxon kings, the *Danes*, a people inhabiting the north of Europe, kept making continual encroachments on the English; and there were a great number of bloody battles fought between them and the English. At length, during the reign of Edmund *Ironside*, the fifteenth of the Saxon kings, Canute, king of the Danes, was so successful, that he forced Edmund to give him half the kingdom; and, after the death

of Edmund, Canute got the whole. After him, his two sons reigned in succession. Thus we got three Danish kings.

1 Canute.
2 Harold.
3 Hardicanute.

The English were, however, soon tired of these Danish kings, and were very glad to have one of the old Saxon race again. This was

Edward (*the Confessor*).

He died without children, and then followed

Harold (*the Second*).

Harold had no just title to the throne; but as, at first, there was no one to oppose him, he was quietly crowned king. He did not, however, reign long without interruption: his opponent was no less a person than William, duke of Normandy, who was afterwards called *William the Conqueror.*

Normandy, you perhaps know, is a province in France, and of this province William was duke; and he had often entertained Edward *the Confessor* in his court, and he declared that Edward had left the crown of England to him by his will. Be this however as it might, he thought proper to try

a surer way of getting it. He raised an army and crossed the channel, and landed at Pevensey Bay, on the coast of Sussex: and there, after a bloody battle with Harold, near Hastings, he gained the victory. Harold was killed, and William then became king of England. This is called the *Conquest;* and we trace all our race of kings from William the Conquerór. The battle of Hastings was in the year 1066. You will do well to remember this date, and to give great attention to all such particulars as may now occur in the History of England.

The knowledge of the Christian religion had been introduced into England during the time of the Romans:—but the Saxons, by their persecutions, had almost destroyed it; and the nation had become heathen again. It was during the time of the Saxon kings that Pope Gregory sent missionaries to teach Christ's religion to these ignorant pagans. It is said that Gregory, before he was pope, had seen some beautiful children set up for sale in a slave market at Rome, and having asked what country they came from, he was told that they were *Angles* (English). "They would," said he, "not be *Angles*, but *Angels*, if they were

Christians." From that time he was struck with a great desire to convert the heathen English to the religion of Christ; and he sent over several Christian teachers[1] for the sake of accomplishing that Christian work. Since that time, there has always been a profession of Christianity in England:—may God grant that there may always be the *power* of it! How thankful we ought to be that the knowledge of the Gospel, which is still kept from many nations, has been given to *us!* and how anxious ought we to be to show ourselves worthy of so great a gift, by the effect that it produces on our lives and practices! How thankful ought we to be that we have churches to go to! and how regular ought we to be in our attendance there! and how desirous of becoming better by the opportunities of good thus put in our power! How stedfast ought we to be in the faith which is publicly and regularly preached to us! and how diligent ought we to be in seeking to bring others to the knowledge and the love of the same faith, whether they be the ignorant and the profane, in our own land, or the unconverted and unenlightened among the heathen, who have

[1] A. D. 597.

never yet heard those "glad tidings of great joy," which were intended to be made known to "all people!"

I am your affectionate Father.

P.S. Pray don't read over this little history in a hurried manner, but consider it well as you go along. And that you may remember it the better, I shall generally put a few questions at the end of my letters; and you must get somebody to ask you these questions, to see whether you can give the proper answers to them. In looking at a map, remember that the top is the north, the bottom south, the right hand east, and the left hand west.

LETTER II.

MY DEAR BOY,

I TOLD you, in my last Letter, that the Romans, and the Saxons, and the Danes, at different times, had possession of England. I told you, likewise, that in the year 1066, William the Conqueror came over from Normandy in France, and that he conquered King Harold at the battle of Hastings.

I shall now go on to tell you a little of what happened *after* this conquest; and you must now give great attention to remember these things, and you must be very particular about the dates: and, that you may not be puzzled, I shall tell you but a little at a time: and I think you will then recollect what I tell you, and so get a little knowledge of the History of England; as much, perhaps, as you will want just at present.

Remember, then, that William the Conqueror landed near Hastings, in the year 1066. After conquering Harold, he marched immediately to London, and was crowned king at Westminster, by the Archbishop of York, and took the usual oaths to defend the Church, and observe the laws, and govern the people with impartiality. William was glad to find that the people received him willingly; and he chose to make them think that *they* had given him his power. The truth was, however, that he had taken it by force,—and he soon made them to feel this. He plundered many of the English of their property, for the sake of giving it to his Norman officers and soldiers, and he thus reduced the old inhabitants to the greatest distress, and gave all his benefits to the new

comers! This is generally the case with invaders; and, therefore, every man who knows what he is about, will do all he can to defend his country from their attacks.

William, with all his power and greatness, had a very troublesome life. The people were continually rebelling against him; and the English and Normans were perpetually quarrelling. William took part with his Normans; and, however ill the English were used by them, there was no remedy to be had by law; and the English were, therefore, constantly seeking some method of private revenge; and this miserable state of things made many of the Normans wish themselves well back again. Then William, to tempt them to stay, increased their possessions; and, for this purpose, he again plundered the English, and thus added to their burden. Miserable times these must have been! How thankful we ought to be that we live under a mild king[1], and are governed by just and equal laws! William the Conqueror was a cruel king. He was so angry because the people did not submit quietly to him, that he at one time ordered the county of Northumberland to be laid

[1] 1822.

waste, and all the inhabitants to be turned out of doors, and all their furniture and tools to be burned; it is said that above a hundred thousand persons were thus destroyed, either by sword or famine. So much for what many people call "good old times!"

But, besides these public troubles, William was very unhappy in his own family. He had three sons living, Robert, William, and Henry. Robert was a bold daring youth, but of a very bad and angry temper. One day when the brothers were playing together, the two younger ones threw a can of water upon Robert, and thus put him into a violent passion; and such was his violence, that he took a sword, and rushed upon his brothers to take revenge. See the dreadful effects of anger! This youth might, in his passion, have shed the blood of his brothers, and have thus made himself miserable for ever. How careful then ought we to be, to govern our tempers, and to seek to bring them to that *gentleness* which we read of in the Scriptures, as one of the "fruits of the Spirit!" Robert was, however, prevented from killing his brothers by the old king, who heard the disturbance. He next turned his anger against his father, and, after this, he rebelled against him, and fought

against him: and, on one occasion, he was very near killing the king, his father, without knowing him. In those days it was the custom to have the body almost wholly covered with plates of steel armour; and their helmets covered their heads and faces, so that they could not know one person from another. The king and his son met in battle. They fought for a long time: at length Robert beat down the old king, and was just going to kill him, when the king's helmet fell off,—and Robert saw that it was his father. Robert fell on his knees, and begged that his father would forgive him, and promised for the future to behave like a good son. William was, however, very angry with him—though, after a time, he became reconciled.

William was a great lover of *hunting*, and he actually destroyed all the villages in Hampshire for thirty miles round, and turned out the inhabitants, for the sake of making himself a forest[1] to hunt in: and, that he might not be interrupted in his hunting, he made very cruel laws to prevent any body from hunting in this forest besides himself. In those days, if any one killed a deer,

[1] Still called the "New Forest."

or a boar, or a hare, he was punished by having his eyes put out; and they thought less about the life of a *man*, than of one of these animals. People might well talk of tyranny and oppression in those days; and, when we think of such times, we have great reason to be thankful for the liberty and protection which we experience now.

William died in France, by an accident, in the year 1087. He had got into a quarrel with the king of France, and was attacking one of his towns, when his horse happened to put his fore-feet upon some hot ashes, which caused him to plunge so violently, that the injury which the king received was the cause of his death.

His eldest son Robert became duke of Normandy, and William became king of England. But I must leave the account of this second William till my next letter. Remember that William the First (called the Conqueror) reigned twenty-one years; having come to the throne in 1066, and having died in 1087.

Short character of William the Conqueror.

(*From Goldsmith's History.*)

"William was a prince of great courage and capacity; ambitious, politic, cruel, revengeful, and

rapacious. He was fond of glory, and was saving at one time, that he might be ostentatious at another. Though sudden and impetuous in his enterprises, he was cool, deliberate, and unwearied in times of danger. He is said by the Norman writers to have been above eight feet high, his body strong-built and well-proportioned; and his strength such, that none of his courtiers could draw his bow. He talked little; he was seldom affable to any, except to Lanfranc, Archbishop of Canterbury; with him he was ever meek and gentle; with all others stern and austere. Though he rendered himself formidable to all, and odious to many, yet he had policy enough to transmit his power to posterity; and the throne is still occupied by his descendants."

Now think well of what you have read, and try whether you can answer these

QUESTIONS.

In what year did William the Conqueror come to England
What part of the world did he come from?
In what part of England did he land?
Who was king of England at that time?
Was a battle fought?
Where?

How did William behave to the English?
What cruel act did he do in the county of Northumberland?
How many sons had William?
What were their names?
Do you remember any anecdote respecting these brothers?
How did the eldest son behave to his father?
What dreadful consequences had almost followed from the eldest son's rebellious conduct?
What amusement was the king particularly fond of?
What tyrannical act did he commit to enable him to pursue this amusement?
Where did William die, and what was the cause of his death?
In what year was this?
Who became king of England after William?

LETTER III.

MY DEAR BOY,

In my last letter I told you that William the Second came to the throne in the year 1087.

This William was called *Rufus*, because he had red hair, *rufus* being the Latin word for *red*.

You know that *Robert* was the eldest son of William the Conqueror, and therefore *he* ought to have been king of England; but his father

refused to leave him the kingdom on account of his bad behaviour: William Rufus, however, was not, in the least, better than his brother; but he had the art to conceal his bad disposition.

The two brothers had frequent quarrels, and many battles, about the possession of the kingdom; but William was generally victorious.

It is in this reign that we first hear about the *Crusades:* and these seem to have occupied the thoughts of all the great Christian warriors of those days.—But perhaps you never have heard of these Crusades.

You must know, then, that there was in France a man called Peter the Hermit, and he had gone on a pilgrimage to Jerusalem, and there his spirit was grieved within him to think that the land which our Lord had trod, should be in possession of the Pagan enemies of the cross; and that these enemies should harass and persecute the Christian believers. He, therefore, thought that it would be a good Christian work to deliver the Holy Land from the hands of these unbelieving persecutors, the Saracens, and to get it into the possession of the Christians. This Peter, therefore, went about all Europe, exhorting kings and warriors to engage

in this pious cause; and he was so successful, that people of all ranks seemed ready to join in the undertaking. Robert, duke of Normandy, was so eager for this holy war, that he became perfectly careless about getting the kingdom of England from his brother William; and he was so indifferent, too, even about his dukedom of Normandy, that he mortgaged it to William for a sum of money, and then set off for the holy war.

When I think of the Crusades, I never can help admiring the zeal and devotion of those warriors, who went forth in the cause of the Christian religion. At the same time, I think that they were quite mistaken in their notions of religion, in expecting to propagate the mild spirit of the Christian faith by means of war and bloodshed. Still, however, these great soldiers showed a zeal and earnestness in the cause of the Gospel, which may well make *us* ashamed of our carelessness and indifference in the same cause.

The warriors who went on these Crusades wore a red cross on their right shoulder: and you see that many noblemen and gentlemen who are descended from these ancient soldiers, have, at this day, red crosses on their coats of arms. I do not

expect that they will now draw their swords, as their forefathers did, in the cause of the Gospel; but many of them are encouraging the knowledge of it by means much more likely to succeed, and much more likely to be favoured with the Divine blessing. But, not to keep you too long, I shall hasten to the end of the reign of William Rufus.

William was, like his father, a great lover of hunting: and as he was one day taking his favourite diversion in the New Forest, attended by Sir Walter Tyrrel, a French knight, who generally accompanied him, the king wounded a stag with an arrow from his bow. And, as he was pursuing the animal in hopes of seeing him fall, Tyrrel let fly an arrow at the stag, which, glancing from a tree, struck the king to the heart. He dropped down dead on the spot; and Sir Walter Tyrrel, fearful of the consequences, put spurs to his horse, and galloped away to the sea-shore, and set off for France, and joined a Crusade which was then going to Jerusalem. William's body, being found by some countrymen, was laid across a horse and carried to Winchester, where it was buried the next day in the cathedral without any marks of respect, as nobody had any regard or

value for this king. The death of William Rufus was in the year 1100.

Character of William Rufus (from Smollett).

"William the Second had neither learning, principle, nor honour: he was haughty, passionate, and ungrateful; a scoffer at religion, a scourge to the clergy; vain-glorious, talkative, rapacious, lavish, and dissolute. He took all opportunities to fleece and enslave his English subjects, and at one time imprisoned fifty of the best families in the kingdom, on the pretence of their having killed some deer. He was likewise a great profligate."

QUESTIONS.

In what year did William the Second come to the throne?
What was this William called?
Why was he so called?
Was William the eldest son of the Conqueror?
What was the name of the eldest son?
Why was not this eldest son king?
What country did he rule over?
What do you mean by the Crusades?
Who was Peter the Hermit?
Did the king's eldest brother join the Crusades?

What particular badge did the warriors in the Crusades wear on their dress?
What particular amusement was William Rufus fond of?
What was the cause of his death?
Who shot him?
In what year was this?
Was he buried with due marks of respect?
Why not?
Where was he buried?
Was he a good or a bad king?

LETTER IV.

MY DEAR BOY,

I SUPPOSE you pay great attention to what I write to you, and that you will be glad to hear more about the kings of England. You must know, then, that there were no less than eight kings of England of the name of Henry. The one that I am now going to write about is Henry the First; he came to the throne after William the Second. Henry was the *younger* brother of William, and therefore he had no right to the crown; for that belonged properly to Robert, the elder brother;

but at this time Robert was at Jerusalem, engaged in the holy wars. However, when he returned, he took possession of his own dukedom of Normandy, and then came and demanded to be king of England. He was, however, an idle, vain sort of person; and Henry bribed him with a sum of money, and easily persuaded him to go quietly home again; and then they agreed, that, if either of them died without children, the other should have both England and Normandy.

However, Robert, instead of being fit to govern *both*, soon showed that he could not manage *one* His country of Normandy was soon in such a wretched state, that the people were obliged to send over for Henry to put things in order for them. Henry was glad enough to do this, and he went over to France with a large army, and he engaged in a battle against his brother, took him prisoner, and kept him for the rest of his life a prisoner in Cardiff Castle, in Glamorganshire. Glamorganshire, you know, is a county in South Wales, bordering on the sea.

Henry now had nothing to disturb him in his government. He was in possession of both England and Normandy; he had a son for his heir,

a fine young man about eighteen years of age: and he had likewise a daughter, named Matilda, who was married to the emperor of Germany. In short, the worldly affairs of this king seemed altogether flourishing and prosperous. But, alas! how little is any thing in this world to be depended on, and how vain it is to expect that all the greatness and dignity upon earth will ward off affliction and sorrow! Nay, great riches often bring great troubles with them; and the fear of losing them often leads to grievous misery and distress. It was just so with this king. He was afraid that he, or his son after him, might lose the dukedom of Normandy; he therefore took his son over to France, to have him acknowledged as his heir. After this was over, the king was returning to England in great state and splendour, with a vast retinue of his chief nobility. The king's son, and a number of young noblemen, were to return together in one ship, but they did not set sail so soon as the king. They stayed behind to indulge in feasting and drinking; and danger, you know, generally comes of that vice, whether among the rich or the poor. The sailors drank so much that they were not able to manage the ship, and

they ran her against a rock—and she was immediately dashed to pieces. The young prince was put into a boat, and might have been saved, but he heard the shrieks of his sister Maude, and ordered his boat to be rowed to her, to try to save her. Many of the poor creatures who were on the broken ship then jumped into the boat, and, there being too many of them, the boat went down to the bottom with them all. It is said that 140 young noblemen of England and Normandy all perished together. One man only, instead of venturing into the boat, clung to the mast of the ship, and was taken up by some fishermen the next morning.

The king, who had arrived safely in England, was expecting his son with the greatest anxiety for three days; and when at last he was assured that the prince was drowned, he seemed quite overburdened with grief; and it is said that he was never seen to smile from that moment to the day of his death. Thus we may see the misery that every man is exposed to, who rests his happiness on any thing in this world! It is our duty, as well as our happiness, to love our children; but we should so love them as to feel that they may

be at any moment taken away from us. How excellent are the words of the poet—

"O death, all eloquent! you only prove,
What dust we dote on when 'tis *man* we love."

POPE.

This is true indeed! there is nothing sure and lasting in this world below. How beautiful then, and how noble is that advice which we read in Scripture! "Set your affections on things *above*." Henry the First died in the year 1135.

Character of Henry the First (from Smollett).

"Henry was of a middle stature and robust make, with dark brown hair and blue serene eyes. He was facetious, fluent, and affable to his favourites. His capacity, naturally good, was improved and cultivated in such a manner that he obtained the name of Beau Clerk (or, the fine scholar) by his learning. He was cool, cautious, penetrating, and bold; but cruel, revengeful, rigid, and severe. His Norman descent and connexions caused him to despise the English, whom he oppressed in the most tyrannical manner.'

QUESTIONS.

How many English kings were there of the name of Henry?
Whose son was Henry the First?
In what year did he begin to reign?
Who ought to have been king?
Why was not Robert king?
On his return from the Holy Land, did Robert assert his right to the Crown?
How was it that he did not succeed?
What agreement was made between Robert and Henry?
How did Robert go on in Normandy?
What became of him?
Had Henry any children?
What happened to Henry's son?
Did any other persons perish with the young prince?
How many were saved?
How did the king bear his loss?
In what year did king Henry die?

LETTER V.

MY DEAR BOY,

In my last letter I finished the history of Henry the First. The next king to him was Stephen. I shall copy out for your amusement, a little account

of Stephen's reign, which I have met with in a very pretty book, called "Stories selected from the History of England: for Children."

"You must remember that Henry the First died in the year 1135. His only son, you know, was drowned; but he had one daughter, named Matilda; and before he died, he had ordered that his daughter should be queen of England; and the lords, and bishops, and all the people, accepted Matilda for their queen, and took an oath to be faithful and obedient to her. But there was a cousin of Matilda's, whose name was *Stephen*, who was a great soldier, very brave, and very wicked; and although he had sworn, like all the rest, to have Matilda for queen, no sooner was the old king dead, than Stephen, wickedly breaking his oath, collected an army, and proclaimed himself king. Then there began long and bloody wars; for most of the lords, bishops, and people, remembered the oath they had taken, and were true to Matilda, and so an army was raised for her, which fought with the army of Stephen; and sometimes Matilda's army won the battle, and sometimes Stephen's.

"But at last Stephen succeeded in driving

Matilda out of England, and in getting possession of the kingdom; but this did not last long, for Stephen was a very unjust king, and oppressed the people; and they all rose against him, and invited Matilda to come back to England, and to bring her little son, who was called Henry, after the old king, his grandfather.

"So she and little Henry came to England, and a great army was raised for them; and it fought Stephen's army several times, and at last took Stephen himself prisoner, and he was then thrown into a prison, where he was kept a whole year; and during that time Matilda was queen of England.

"But Stephen getting out of prison, the wars began again, and there were a dreadful number of people killed, and many a poor father and mother lost their children in the bloody battles on both sides.

"So you see what sad misfortunes were occasioned by Stephen's wickedness in breaking his promise; but you shall hear how Stephen himself, by the justice of Heaven, suffered the same misfortunes that he caused to others.

"For his chief object was that his own son

Eustace should be king of England after him, and this was the chief reason of his wicked conduct; but, as if to punish him for his crime, just as he had again got quiet possession of the kingdom, this very son, Eustace, died.

"And Stephen himself died soon after; and then young Henry became king, to the great joy of all the nation."

As I think the above account is expressed better than I could do it myself, I have written it out for you. I hope you attend to the little pieces of history that I send. And I hope that you will try to remember what title each king had to the throne, and the times when they began to reign, and when they died. Take great pains to have all these things in your memory, so as to bring them out at once, without hesitation and stammering. Stephen died in 1154. He was the son of Adelaide, the sister of the last king, and had certainly no right to have the crown, when there was a daughter of the late king living. Adelaide had married the Count of Blois, a French nobleman, and thus King Stephen was called Stephen of Blois.

I am your affectionate Father.

P.S. You will find it very useful, in reading history, to make a little table of kings as you go on, marking the times when they began to reign, something in this way :—

William 1st (1066)
|
William 2nd (1087)—Henry 1st (1100)—Adelaide
|
Matilda
|
Henry 2nd (1154).

Stephen (1135).

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Henry the First die?
Did he leave a son behind him?
Did he leave a daughter?
What was that daughter's name?
Ought she not to have been queen?
Who did actually take possession of the throne
What relation was Stephen to Matilda?
Whose son was Stephen?
Did Stephen and Matilda contend for the throne?
Had Matilda a son?
What was his name?
Had Stephen a son?
What was his name?
Did Stephen's son live to be king?
Who was king after Stephen's death?

In what year did Stephen die?
Whom had Stephen's mother married?
What was Stephen called?
Now try if you can make a table of kings by yourself, as far as Henry the Second, and put the dates of the years when they began to reign.

LETTER VI.

MY DEAR BOY,

As I hear that you pay great attention to what I write, I go on with the English kings. We have now got to the reign of Henry the Second, who, as you know, was the son of Matilda, who ought to have reigned instead of Stephen. In this King Henry's reign lived the famous Thomas à Becket. This celebrated man rose from a very low station to be Archbishop of Canterbury. He made great pretensions to piety, but he appears to have known very little of the nature of true religion, and seems to have thought that it consisted wholly in outward observances, and severe bodily penances and mortifications. How different is this from the true religion of the

Gospel, which is a message of peace, and contains the most glad tidings which were ever made known to man! The Christian religion requires no self-inflicted punishments—it enjoins no hard observances—but it invites us to *happiness*, and shows us the way. The religion of Christ, it is true, calls upon us to "deny ourselves," but it is only when self-denial is the way to make us truly happy. It is, then, real kindness which bids us to avoid such things as will lead us to misery:—and such are *all those things* which are forbidden in the Scriptures. They are forbidden, because they would *hurt us*. And those things which we are commanded to *do*, we are commanded to do because such obedience will make us happy. How anxious, then, ought we to be to avoid all that the Scriptures forbid, and to obey all that they command; and how cheerfully ought we to do so, when we consider that this is all contrived for our good! But how different is this from the mistaken severity practised by such men as Thomas à Becket! We read that "he was in person the most mortified man that could be seen; that he wore sackcloth next his skin; that he changed it so seldom, that it was filled

with dirt and vermin; that his usual diet was bread, and his drink water, which he rendered further unpalatable by the mixture of unsavoury herbs. His back was mangled by frequent scourging! He every day washed on his knees the feet of thirteen beggars." Such is the account of the habits of Thomas à Becket, when he was nearly the greatest man in the kingdom. But, under this appearance of humility, Becket had a heart full of pride and ambition. He had very great power among the clergy; but, instead of using it in support of the king, as a Christian subject ought to do, he employed it in opposition to his sovereign, and wished to have the clergy a rich and powerful body, thinking more about their earthly dignity than their heavenly calling. In short, the power of these popish priests was a constant torment to the king; and he one day, in the midst of his anger, seemed to wish that he was "well rid of Becket."

You must remember that those old times were not like these in which we live. *Now*, if our king[1], instead of being one of the best-tempered

[1] This was written in the year 1822. The argument has all its force in the year 1852.

men in the kingdom, was savage enough to wish for the death of the meanest of his subjects, he could not hurt a hair of the poor man's head:—but, in former days, if a king wished any person out of the way, there were plenty of people to do the bloody work; and a king might then easily get rid of an enemy. And thus it was that Becket was despatched. Four of the king's attendants, who knew their master's wishes, set off to Canterbury, and cruelly murdered Becket whilst he was kneeling at the altar at his prayers. You may be sure that, after this cruel deed, the king's conscience would not let him rest, and he afterwards vainly tried to make amends for his crime by doing penance at Becket's tomb. He accordingly went down towards Canterbury. When he got within sight of the church he alighted from his horse, and walked barefoot towards the town. Then he proceeded to the tomb of "St. Thomas of Canterbury," for so Becket was now called. Such pilgrimages were common in those days: and, if ever you go to see the cathedral of Canterbury, you will see the stones worn away with the knees of the pilgrims who went to worship at the shrine of St. Thomas à

Becket. What a foolish zeal for the *errors* of religion! I heartily wish we were all as earnest for its important *truths!*

It was in this king's reign that we took possession of Ireland, which has belonged to the English ever since. The Irish were, at the time we are speaking of, in a state of great ignorance. Since those days they are much improved, and are, in many respects, a fine people; but many of the poor among them are still in a state to require every help that good education and Christian instruction can give them.

Pray did you ever read the story of Fair Rosamond? O yes, you must have read it, or heard of it. Well, it was in the reign of this King Henry that Fair Rosamond lived. King Henry had married his wife (Queen Eleanor) merely for her fortune. This, you know, was wrong. However, when he had married her, it was his duty to have been faithful to her. But, instead of this, he formed an attachment to Rosamond Clifford: and, that he might conceal her from the queen, he made a labyrinth (or a sort of winding passage) in a bower, in Woodstock Park, in Oxfordshire. The queen, however, found out this place of retreat.

and, with the help of a clue of thread, contrived to make her way through all the windings of the labyrinth, till she found the retreat of Fair Rosamond. She had brought with her a dagger and a bowl of poison: and she held the dagger to Rosamond's breast, and compelled her to swallow the poison. Thus was the wicked adultery of the king and Rosamond punished by his wicked and bloody queen. And so it is,—one wicked person is often made the instrument of punishing the wickedness of others.

This King Henry was very unhappy in his children. They all rebelled against him, and made the latter days of his life very miserable. A man who has unthankful wicked children never can be happy, in whatever station he may be. If you are a good Christian, my dear boy, I shall be more happy than if I were a king.

The undutiful behaviour of his children was such a grief to the king, that he gave himself quite up to despair: and he was particularly grieved to find that his *favourite*, good-for-nothing, son, John, was amongst those who had rebelled against him. Nothing afforded him any pleasure; his health failed, and he was soon brought to his

grave. He died in the year 1189, in the fifty-eighth of his age, and the thirty-fifth of his reign.

Many writers of history give this king an excellent character; but I cannot help differing very widely from those who so represent him. I believe, indeed, as a king, he was very useful to his country, and was likewise amiable and agreeable in his disposition. But writers of history may do a deal of harm by praising those who do not deserve to be praised. Henry had caused Becket to be put to death, and he had neglected his wife that he might live with Rosamond. Here is both murder and adultery.

I am your affectionate Father.

QUESTIONS.

Who became king after Stephen?
In what year did Henry the Second come to the throne?
Who was Archbishop of Canterbury at this time?
What was the character of Thomas à Becket?
How did he clothe himself?
What was his usual diet?
Did he inflict severe punishment on his body?
Is this sort of penance required by the Christian religion?

Was Becket humble-minded, or proud
Was the king offended by Becket's desire of power?
Did he express a wish to be "well rid of Becket?"
Did any of the king's attendants act upon this hint?
What did they do?
Where did they murder Becket?
Was the king's conscience easy after this murder?
What did the king do?
Is there any sign in Canterbury cathedral of many pilgrims having gone to worship at Becket's tomb?
In whose reign did the English get possession of Ireland?
Have we kept possession of it ever since?
Who was fair Rosamond?
Who killed her?
Where?
In what manner?
How did King Henry's children behave to him?
Was their behaviour a great grief to the king?
In what year did Henry II. die?
How old was he?
How long had he reigned?
Is Henry considered by historians as a good king?
But was he not guilty of great crimes?

LETTER VII.

MY DEAR BOY,

HENRY THE SECOND was the last king I wrote to you about. After his death came his son *Richard the First*, who was a very brave man, and was therefore called *Richard Cœur de Lion*, which, in French, means *Richard the Lionhearted*. His wars were chiefly carried on against the Infidels in the Holy Land. These wars, as I have already explained to you, were called the Crusades. He went with Philip [1], king of France, to this enterprise, and their two armies amounted to a hundred thousand fighting men. The king of France did not stay long in the Holy Land, but went home again on account of the badness of his health: or this might, perhaps, be only a pretence. He, however, left ten thousand of his men with the king of England, to assist in the war. Richard was very successful in conquering all before him. The infidel Saracens were beaten in every battle. Richard took the city of Ascalon, and many others

[1] Philip II.

of less note, and was going to besiege Jerusalem; but he found that his army was so wasted with famine and fatigue, and even with victory, that it was necessary to give up the war for the present. A truce (that is, a rest from war) was agreed on for three years, on conditions favourable to the Christians.

There is a curious story told about this King Richard. In returning home, he took the road through Germany, dressed in the habit of a pilgrim. He was, however, seized by the duke of Austria, and put into prison. This same duke of Austria had been with his armies in the Holy Land, and whilst he was there, the king of England and he had frequent quarrels: for Richard Cœur de Lion was not only a very brave man, but he was also a very violent, haughty man, and could not keep his temper within any bounds, if he might not have his own way in every thing. Now this, you may be sure, the other leaders did not like, and this led to great disputes amongst them. The duke of Austria was, therefore, glad enough to get the haughty king of England into his power: and thus the king, who had filled the world with his greatness

was now thrown into a dungeon, and loaded with irons. It was a long time before the English people knew what was become of their beloved king. His place of confinement is said to have been found out by a poor French musician, who was near the prison, and was playing upon his harp a tune which he knew the king of England to be fond of. The king answered from within, by playing on his harp the same tune. The English gladly gave above three hundred thousand pounds for his deliverance, and thus this loyal people had the happiness to set their monarch free.

You may be sure that the English people were full of joy at the return of their king. He entered London in great triumph, and was soon afterwards crowned anew at Winchester. His cruel brother John had, during this time, been acting as king, and doing all he could to get Richard detained in prison ;—but the king generously forgave him.

There was something singular in the death of Richard. A person who held some land in France under the king of England, found a treasure in his field, and sent a part of it to the king. Richard knew that he had a right to the whole, and insisted upon having it. The treasure was

placed in a strong castle in France, and Richard attacked the castle. As he was riding round the place on the fourth day of the siege, he was shot in the shoulder by an arrow from the castle. The wound was badly treated, and it mortified, and brought on the death of the king.

Before his death, he is said to have ordered the archer who shot him to be brought into his presence; and he nobly forgave him, and ordered him to be set at liberty. His attendants, however, full of rage, put the man to death as soon as he had quitted the presence of the king.

Richard died in the tenth year of his reign, in the year 1199. He had no children, and therefore his brother John became king.

I hope you try to remember what I tell you, and I shall then be encouraged to write to you often.

I am your affectionate Father, &c.

QUESTIONS.

Who was king of England after Henry II.?
In what year did Richard I. come to the throne
What French name was given to him?
What is the meaning of this French name?
Why was this name given to him?

Where did Richard chiefly carry on his wars?
Against what people?
What were these wars called?
Who went with Richard on the Crusade?
How many fighting men did the English and French army together amount to?
Did the king of France stay long in the Holy Land?
Did he leave Richard any of his soldiers?
How many?
Was Richard successful in this war?
What town did he take?
Did he then agree upon a truce?
What do you mean by a *truce?*
For how long a time was this truce agreed upon
What happened to King Richard on his return?
How had Richard treated the duke of Austria when they were in the Holy Land together?
How was his place of confinement found out?
How did the king obtain his liberty?
What sum did the English pay to deliver their king?
Who had been acting as king, in England, during Richard's absence?
Was John's behaviour good?
What was the cause of Richard's death?
In what year did this happen?
Had King Richard any children?
Who then became king after his death?
How long did Richard I. reign?
In what year did he die?

LETTER VIII.

MY DEAR BOY,

I TOLD you, in my last Letter, that after the death of Richard, his brother John became king. Now, in those days, as well as now, the crown was to go to the next of kin, as rightful heir: but this matter does not seem to have been so well settled and understood as it is in our own days, so that, when any king died, there was often a dispute about who should be the next. Now John knew that, strictly speaking, he was not the true heir to the throne; for this belonged to a little boy about twelve years old, named Arthur, the son of Geoffrey, who was dead, but who was the next brother to King Richard. Now John was a cruel tyrant, and was hated by all his people, and he was afraid they would try to make Arthur king instead of him. He therefore conceived the dreadful thought of killing this little boy. And

it was not long before he executed his horrid intention. He had him confined in a prison, and he sent some bloody-minded ruffians to murder him. We read that the sweet and innocent looks and language of this beautiful child almost melted the stony hearts even of those savage murderers. One man, however, put his eyes out: and, whilst this man was gone out of the apartment, the dear boy, trembling for his danger, tried to make his escape out of the window, and in attempting this he fell down from a high turret, and was dashed to pieces. This is one of the accounts which we read, and this is adopted by Shakspeare in his historical play of "King John;" but there are several different accounts of the manner in which this poor little boy was put to death: some say, that King John killed him with his own hand. It seems certain, however, that it was by means of his cruel uncle that Arthur was destroyed. In this dreadfully wicked manner did King John seek to possess his throne in peace: but it was not very likely that such wickedness should prosper. He had a miserable reign; and his subjects were perpetually rebelling against him. You have, perhaps, heard of the *Magna Charta*, the

great bulwark, as it is called, of our liberties. King John, you must know, was constantly striving to destroy the liberties of his people; and, in those days, the barons, or great nobles, all had their tenants and dependants trained up as warriors, ready to fight for them, whenever they might have occasion for their help. This led to perpetual quarrels, and sieges, and battering of castles, and all the miseries of war, among those who ought to have lived like friends and neighbours. Those barons, too, would often join and oppose the power of the king himself, being afraid that he should encroach on their greatness and dignity. But we must allow, that, in the reign of King John, they were the means of doing a great deal of good; they drew up a charter, in which they laid down certain rules by which the kingdom was to be governed, and which were intended to prevent the king from acting according to his own wicked intentions, and to bind him to such laws as should be for the good of all classes of the people as well as of the king. This charter was signed at Runnymede, a field between Staines and Windsor, where the king and the barons all met in complete armour. This took

place in the year 1215, and this charter is sometimes called the charter of Runnymede, and sometimes the *Magna Charta*, which you know is Latin for "Great Charter."

One should have hoped that things would now have been all settled, and the kingdom restored to peace and quietness: but, when there is a turbulent and wicked spirit abroad, it is not signing charters that will restore order and happiness. The king and the barons still quarrelled; and the regulations of the Great Charter were forgotten and despised. The barons sent to beg assistance of the king of France; the worst method they could have adopted, as the kingdom, if it escaped from the tyranny of John, would be compelled to submit to the power of France. This difficulty was, however, soon ended by the death of the king. He was marching with a large army from Lynn towards Lincolnshire, along the sea-coast, without knowing that this road would be overflowed at high water: the consequence was, that the tide destroyed all his waggons, and baggage, and treasures; and he himself with difficulty escaped. He arrived, however, at the abbey of Swinstead. But his loss so distressed him, that

it brought on a fever which seemed likely to end in his death. He was next day carried to Sleaford; and, after that, was removed to Newark, where he died, in the fifty-first year of his age, and the eighteenth of his reign. This was in the year 1216.

I am, &c.

Character of King John (chiefly from Hume).

"The character of this prince is nothing but a collection of vices, equally mean and odious, ruinous to himself, and destructive to his people: cowardice, inactivity, folly, levity, licentiousness, ingratitude, treachery, tyranny, and cruelty: all these qualities evidently appeared in the several incidents of his life. It is hard to say whether his conduct to his father, his brother, his nephew, or his subjects, was the worst. His dominions, when they came to him by the death of his brother, were greater than any other English monarch ever possessed. But he lost, by his misconduct, the flourishing provinces of France, the ancient patrimony of his family. He subjected his kingdom to a shameful submission to the pope of Rome; he saw the power of his crown diminished by law,

and still more reduced by faction; and he died at last, when in danger of being totally ruined by a foreign power, and of either ending his life in a prison, or seeking shelter as a fugitive from the pursuit of his enemies."

QUESTIONS.

Who was king of England after Richard the First?
In what year did King John come to the throne?
What relation was John to the late king?
Was John the rightful heir to the throne?
Who was?
What was the disposition of John?
What cruel plan did he contrive?
Did he execute his bloody intention?
Relate the circumstances which are said to have attended the death of Arthur.
Did John enjoy the throne in peace after he had gained it by such unjust and horrible means?
What do you mean by Magna Charta?
Where was this Great Charter signed?
Where is Runnymede?
Who forced the king to sign this Charter?
In what year was it signed?
Did the king attend to the regulations of the Great Charter?
Whose assistance did the barons call in?

What caused the death of King John?
Where did he die?
In what year did he die?
How long had he reigned?
What was the general character of King John?

LETTER IX.

MY DEAR BOY,

As I find that you take great pains to remember the little portions of the History of England which I send you, I continue to write on the same subject.

After the death of King John, in the year 1216, his son Henry, a boy only nine years old, was the rightful king; but, by the ill management of his father, the kingdom had got into the hands of the French king. Young Henry, however, found friends; and, after some difficulties and struggles, was put in possession of his kingdom.

This king, Henry the Third, seemed to be well disposed, and to wish to make his people happy; he gave them a charter of liberties, much the

same as the great charter of King John—with some other privileges besides. It was, however, soon found that he had not spirit and energy enough to manage the people in such turbulent times. He soon got into troubles and difficulties. As he grew older, he grew no wiser; he often gave away places and dignities to very unfit persons, and thus had the duties of those places ill done, besides causing great dissatisfaction and jealousy. This went on for many years; his wars cost the nation large sums, and he had no success in them, so that altogether the country was in a terrible state of discontent. It was then that an ambitious man named Simon Montford, earl of Leicester, raised a strong party and rebelled against the king; and, in the same battle, he took both him and his son prisoners. The young prince was named Edward; and a fine gallant prince he was! You may be sure he was very desirous of gaining his liberty, and of restoring the character of his country; and accordingly he contrived to make his escape. A curious story is told of the manner in which he did this. You must not, however, suppose that he was actually shut up in a prison all the time he was in Mont-

ford's power; he was allowed to walk and ride out; but he was attended by guards to prevent him from escaping. One day, as he was riding with these guards, he proposed to them that they should ride races together, whilst he should look on and judge which was best. When they had rode several races, so that all their horses were completely tired, the young prince, on his fine fresh horse, galloped away, leaving all his guards in the lurch, staring and wondering at one another's folly.

When Edward had got amongst his friends, he soon raised an army, and made an attack upon Montford, hoping to deliver his country as well as to set his old father at liberty. He soon reached Montford's army; and a bloody battle was fought, in which the young prince was the conqueror, and Montford was killed. The poor old king had been put in front of Montford's army, that he might be killed by his own men, who would not know him, because he was closely cased up in his armour: and he was indeed wounded by one of his own soldiers, and would have been killed; but, just then, he cried out that he was "The King." Then the young prince

knew the voice of his father, and rode directly up to him, and took him to his own tent, and had his wound dressed; and the old king lived for some years afterwards.

This King Henry died in the year 1272. He had reigned fifty-six years, which is the longest reign of any of the English kings—except our late good king, George the Third.

To assist your memory, it may be worth while to observe, that there have been only *three* kings of England who have reigned more than fifty years, and these all happen to be *thirds*;—Henry the *Third*, Edward the *Third*, and George the *Third*.

It is in the reign of Henry the Third that we first hear of regular parliaments. Before this time, there were constant wars between the king and the barons; and things never seemed to be going on well. To endeavour to remedy this, representatives of the people were now to be sent up from every county, as well as from boroughs; and the kingdom was to be governed by king, lords, and commons. This is the best of all forms of government; and it continues in England to this day.

A nation governed by a king alone is called a *Monarchy;* if by nobles alone, it is called an *Aristocracy;* if by representatives of the people alone, it is called a *Democracy.* Either of these forms of government, taken separately, is often exposed to great inconvenience, and productive of great evil; but, when united together, the benefit of each is gained, and the inconveniences of each avoided. The interests of these three estates are closely connected; and, if we are wise, we shall be glad to see them all flourishing together. By this form of government, the good of all ranks is consulted: and, if either the king, or the lords, or the people, should attempt to exceed the limits of the power assigned to them, the others are ready to see that all things are properly balanced. I think it is to our present form of government, under Providence, that we owe the great power of this nation. Look at the map, and see what a little place England is; and look what power this little island possesses; and you may be sure that it never could have been so, if the government had not been a good one. Whilst, therefore, we have the privilege of living under good government, and being protected by good laws, it seems

to me the duty of us all to be thankful for these blessings, and to consult the good of our country, by a loyal, peaceable, and grateful obedience to those whom Providence has set over us. Even such insignificant people as you and I may be of some use to our country. Every good man, in every station, is an honour and an ornament to the nation in which he lives. If every man would try, not how *great* he could be, but how *good;* if every man who is called a Christian would make it his great aim to be faithful to the religion which he professes, and to adorn that religion by the uprightness and purity of his life and morals, this would be the true way to make a people happy, and a nation great: there would be then no cause for the complaints which are now made;—and there would be no complaints without cause. I would not, however, have you suppose that we are to be religious and good, merely for the sake of our present happiness, or as a plan for civilizing the community. These advantages will always *accompany* Christianity; and we may well rejoice in seeing these its present triumphs. But we have a still higher object in view, and are responsible for our conduct to a Master, who is high

above all earthly powers; who may indeed be expected to bless us even here, if we study to serve Him; and who will, then, assuredly take us to eternal and unmixed happiness in the world to come.

I am your affectionate Father, &c.

QUESTIONS.

Who was king of England after the death of King John?
How old was Henry the Third when his father died?
In what year did Henry come to the throne?
Did John leave the kingdom in a bad state?
Did Henry wish well to the people?
Did he renew to them the charter of liberty?
Had he spirit and energy of mind enough to govern the people properly?
What powerful nobleman rebelled against him?
Was Montford successful in his contest with the king?
Whom did Montford take prisoners?
What story is related of the manner in which Prince Edward escaped?
How did the prince proceed, after he had made his escape?
Was there a battle fought between the prince and Montford?
Which side conquered?
Where was the king during this battle?
What is related of the young prince during this battle?

How long did King Henry reign?
In what year did he die?
How many kings of England have there ever been who have reigned more than fifty years?
Who were they?
When do we first hear of regular parliaments in England?
What has been the form of the English constitution since that time?

LETTER X.

MY DEAR BOY,

THE last king we spoke of was Henry the Third; who reigned, as we said, fifty-six years, and died in the year 1272. His son Edward had been for some time in the Holy Land, engaged in a war against the Saracens. There is a very pretty story told of the affection of Edward's wife. Whilst in the Holy Land, he was wounded by an assassin in the arm, with a poisoned dagger, but the queen is said to have sucked the poison out of the wound, and thus to have saved the life of her husband.

Edward was returning from Palestine, (which you know is another name for the Holy Land,)

when he heard of the death of the king, his father. He, and his faithful wife, Queen Eleanor, arrived safely in England, and they were crowned at Westminster, in the year 1274. The people rejoiced at the thoughts of having such a king, for they took him to be a brave and noble-minded prince: and he certainly was a great warrior, and an active king, and he exerted himself greatly to make his country prosperous. He confirmed the Magna Charta; which charter, as you know, gave great privileges to the English people. His wars, too, added to the power and greatness of the nation. It was this king that first united the Welsh nation to the English. You know where Wales is: you have seen it in your map of England, on the left side; that is—the west. You perceive that it is joined to England; and King Edward's ambition led him to wish to have it in his own power; for, in the days we are speaking of, it was a separate kingdom, and had its own prince to govern it. The people who lived in Wales were the ancient Britons, who had never been driven from their territories by foreign invaders; and the present people of Wales are descended from those ancient Britons. Whilst other parts

of this island were overrun by Romans, Saxons, Danes, and Normans, these ancient Britons, guarded by their high mountains, and their high courage, never submitted to any of these conquerors. King Edward was determined to try what he could do towards conquering these brave people; and, upon a slight quarrel with Llewellyn, then the prince of that country, he made war against them. But the brave Welsh resisted his encroachments, and refused to submit to him; and they were encouraged in their high spirit by their bards (or poets), who made war-songs in praise of their country, and sang them to their harps, thus raising the courage of the people, and lifting up their minds to a resolute determination to defend their native land. Edward saw, that, so long as the bards remained, he should never be able to conquer the Welsh: and some historians say, that he ordered all these ancient minstrels to be hunted down and put to death. If this story be true, we may talk of the *greatness* of Edward the First—but I never can think of him without calling to mind his horrible cruelty. I cannot help feeling some of that indignation which must have glowed in the heart of our poet Gray, when he

wrote the following lines, which he supposes the last of these bards to have uttered against this cruel king:

"Ruin seize thee, ruthless king!
Confusion on thy banners wait!
Though, fann'd by conquest's crimson wing,
They mock the air with idle state.
Helm nor hauberk's twisted mail,
Nor all thy virtues, tyrant, can avail
To save thy soul from nightly fears,
From Cambria's curse, from Cambria's tears."

You will, perhaps, have a pleasure in learning these lines by heart: the remainder of Gray's Ode goes on to show the miseries which, for a long time, fell upon the descendants of King Edward; these, the last Welsh minstrel is supposed to see with a sort of prophet's eye—but this you know is all poetry; we don't believe that these bards could foresee future events; though the poet, who lived after the events had come to pass, was very well able to describe them. You will, however, be pleased with reading the Ode; and, besides, it will be a little practice for you in English history. *Cambria*, you know, is the ancient name for *Wales*.

The Welsh, although they were so fiercely harassed by King Edward, made a most resolute and persevering defence. They refused to have him for their king, and declared that they would have none but a countryman of their own, who could speak no language but theirs, and who had been born and bred among them. King Edward then tried to come to terms with them; and he said that, if they would submit to him, he would give them just such a king as they had asked for. To this they agreed; and then Edward produced his own little son, who was but a few days old, and who had been born in Wales, at Caernarvon, and who could speak no language at all to offend them.

In this manner, Edward the First is said to have united Wales with England; and the king of England's eldest son has still, as you know, the title of Prince of Wales. We cannot be pleased with the manner in which this union was brought about, although we can see that it is much to the advantage of both nations.

Soon after this, there was a dispute about the crown of Scotland, there being several persons who considered themselves as the rightful heirs.

The dispute was referred to King Edward; and his ambitious spirit led him to see, that with a little management, he might get Scotland into his own hands. He declared that John Baliol was the proper king; but Edward kept all the power in his own hands; and Baliol had the *name* of a king, without any of the privileges belonging to a sovereign. But this the Scottish nation did not at all approve of, and they tried all they could to deliver themselves from their subjection to the king of England. There was a very brave warrior named William Wallace; and such was the high spirit of this great man, that he could not bear to see his beloved Scotland under the power of the English. He accordingly roused his countrymen to exert themselves for their deliverance. King Edward marched into Scotland to resist the force of Wallace, and a very great battle was fought at Falkirk, in which the English ained the victory. The high spirit of the Scots was not, however, yet subdued: Wallace still persevered in his endeavours to deliver his country. The king of England again took the field, and gained several victories over the Scotch, and at length he took William Wallace himself pri-

soner. And here King Edward again showed the cruelty of his disposition; for he ordered his brave enemy to be brought to London in chains, and then to be hanged, drawn, and quartered. Still, however, the Scots resisted; and, fighting under Robert Bruce, they drove the English out of Scotland, and then made *Bruce* their king.

Edward saw, after all his fighting, and all his victories, that still he had little or no power remaining in Scotland. This thought made him extremely angry and violent; and he was resolved to leave no means untried for recovering his authority there. He accordingly sent another large army to oppose Bruce, and he gained a complete victory. Then he went again into Scotland, where he found the people more humble and submissive than he had ever seen them, and he seemed to expect that he should then bring them entirely into subjection. Vain, however, are all the projects of ambitious man; and a grievous thing it is to make the misery of others the object of our desires! Edward had not long to live. He died at Carlisle, in the year 1307. But such was his animosity against the Scotch, that, even

with his dying breath, he begged of his son Edward never to give up the contest against them, till he had made a complete conquest of their kingdom. What a melancholy end,—for a man to die with such feelings on his mind! But so it is! If we encourage wrong feelings during our lives, they will be with us at our deaths,—either leading us astray by their bad influence, or harassing and tormenting us with a consciousness of their guilt.

But to such a king as Edward the First, historians are generally ready to give a high character. And it is indeed true, that his warlike spirit led him to perform such exploits as brought glory and greatness to his kingdom. But how little does this contribute to the happiness of a people, compared with those peaceful and useful qualities which make a nation truly flourishing! And how can we admire the private character of a man who gave way to a temper so full of cruelty and violence?

We are told that his person was very fine and comely, and that he was very tall, but that his legs were too long in proportion to his body. And thus he got the name of *Longshanks!* Ed-

ward Longshanks! What a name and title for a king!

Ever yours, &c.

QUESTIONS.

Who was king of England after Henry the Third?
Where was Prince Edward when his father died?
Who was Edward's wife?
What instance of affection is recorded of this lady?
In what year did Edward come to the throne?
Was Edward brave and warlike; or the contrary?
What country did Edward endeavour to add to England?
Where is Wales?
Who was prince of that country before Edward attacked it?
What description of people are said to have been a great check to King Edward's progress in Wales?
How did Edward treat these bards or poets?
What stratagem is King Edward said to have made use of to get his son acknowledged Prince of Wales?
What has the eldest son of the king of England been called, since the time when Edward thus got possession of Wales?
What country did Edward next endeavour to gain possession of?
What events in Scotland opened a way for Edward's ambitious designs?
Whom did Edward appoint king of Scotland?
Who resisted Edward in Scotland?

Was there a great battle?
Where?
Who conquered?
How did the king treat William Wallace?
Did the Scots still persevere?
Under whom?
Who was then crowned king of Scotland?
Where did Edward the First die?
In what year?
What dying request did he make to his son?
What was his personal appearance?
What name was he sometimes called by?

LETTER XI.

MY DEAR BOY,

In my last letter I gave you some account of the life of Edward the First. We now come to Edward the Second. This young prince was twenty-three years of age when he began to reign. He was born, as I told you, at Caernarvon in Wales; and he has commonly been distinguished by the name of *Edward Caernarvon.* This young king was received with great joy by the people. He

had a fine manly form, and a kind and gentle disposition. But something more than this is required to enable a king to govern a nation properly. It was soon found that he had neither abilities nor spirit enough to manage the great affairs of a kingdom.

His father, you remember, had told him, with his dying breath, never to be at peace till he had completely conquered the Scotch. This was indeed a barbarous request, especially for a dying man;—and we know, moreover, that a king who delights in peace is much wiser than one who would seek for war:—at the same time, if a king does go to war, he ought to do it with spirit, and as if he were determined to conquer.

Edward did indeed persevere in the war against the Scotch, but he managed it so ill, that he was completely beaten by Robert Bruce, king of Scotland, in the great battle of Bannockburn; and thus Edward lost all the power in Scotland that his fighting father had gained.

But, besides his bad success in war, his affairs at home seemed to be constantly going wrong. Instead of carefully considering in his own mind what was best for his people, or of consulting his

parliament, or of taking the advice of wise and learned counsellors, he was always guided by some silly favourite, who had nothing to recommend him but a pleasing outside appearance. At one time Piers Gaveston was the favourite, at another time Hugh Spencer. You may be sure that this would give great offence to all ranks of his subjects. And indeed it did so, for there were constant quarrels and disputes between this king and his people. In the days we are speaking of, the barons could arm their tenants and dependents, and bring them out against any of their neighbours with whom they were at variance, and would often oppose even the king himself. Several of these nobles now joined their powers together, and raised a great army in opposition to the king. In one of their battles they took Gaveston prisoner, and cut off his head. Some time afterwards they took Spencer, and him they hanged. At length they made the king himself prisoner, and it would be a very long and very grievous story to tell you of all the cruel ways in which they abused and tormented him. He was confined in Berkeley Castle, where he was to be taken care of by lords Berkeley, Montravers, and

Gournay, who were each to guard him a month at a time. Lord Berkeley was a tender-hearted man, and was disposed to treat him kindly; but the other two were prepared for every kind of cruelty. They wished, if they could, to break his heart by their savage treatment. Besides many other cruelties, they shaved him in the open fields, using the dirty water from a neighbouring ditch. This insult is said to have greatly affected the king, and he burst into tears, and said that the time might come when he should be better waited on. This, however, never happened; for when Lord Berkeley was confined by sickness, the other two keepers went into the prison, and murdered the king in the most cruel manner. They tried to kill him in such a way that his body might show no marks of violence. But his shrieks rung through all Berkeley Castle, and thus the murder was discovered—as murder generally is. Gournay was some time afterwards taken and beheaded; but Montravers lived to be tormented in his conscience for this foul deed. This murder was committed on the 21st of September, 1327.

"Mark the year, and mark the night,
When Severn shall re-echo with affright
The shrieks of death through Berkeley's roof that ring—
Shrieks of an agonizing king."—GRAY.

You perhaps know that Berkeley Castle is situated on the banks of the Severn, in Gloucestershire, and then you will very well understand these verses.

I hope you try to remember the dates which I mark for you; for if you do not remember your *chronology* (or the *time* when things happened), you are pretty sure to forget your *history*.

I am, &c.

QUESTIONS.

Who was king of England after the death of Edward the First?
How old was Edward the Second when he began to reign?
In what year did he come to the throne?
Where was he born?
What name was he called by?
What was his personal appearance?
What was his disposition?
Do you remember what was his father's dying request respecting Scotland?

Did Edward the Second act up to his father's desire on this point?

How did he succeed in his war against the Scots?

Who beat him?

In what battle?

Did his affairs at home go on well?

By whose advice was he chiefly guided?

Were the people offended at his weak conduct, and his attachment to unprincipled favourites?

Who were his chief favourites?

What became of them?

What happened to the king?

After the king was taken prisoner, where was he confined?

Who had the custody of him at Berkeley Castle?

How was he treated there?

Where is Berkeley Castle?

Near what river?

What particular acts of cruelty did they show to the king?

Was the king ever released from this imprisonment?

What death did he die?

What became of his murderers?

In what year was this murder committed?

LETTER XII.

MY DEAR BOY,

I HAVE already given you a short history of Edward the First, and Edward the Second; we must now, therefore, turn our attention to Edward the Third. This prince was only fourteen years old when he came to the throne; and his wicked mother, and her favourite Mortimer, endeavoured to keep all power from him, and to manage every thing themselves. Edward, however, would not long submit to this, and he therefore attacked the queen and her lover in Nottingham Castle, and seized them both. Mortimer was condemned by the parliament and hanged. The queen was confined for life to the Castle of Risings, with a pension of three hundred a-year. The king, every year, paid her a visit of ceremony, but she was never respected by any one during the rest of her life, which continued about twenty-five years.

Edward the Third was an ambitious and a brave king. He set about conquering Scotland, which his father had lost; and in one of his battles, at Halidown-hill, he is said to have left thirty thousand of the Scotch dead on the field.

He likewise attempted to get the kingdom of France into his power, and he pretended, that, through his mother, he was the rightful heir to the throne. He accordingly went over to France, to endeavour to make a conquest of that kingdom. You have, perhaps, heard of the great battle of *Cressy*. This great battle was fought by Edward the Third, or, I may rather say, by his son, Edward the Black Prince, for the king did not actually engage in the battle, but took his station on a hill at some little distance, with a body of men, in case his help should be wanted. It is said, that, in this battle, the English had only thirty thousand men, whilst the French had a hundred and twenty thousand. The English had indeed the advantage of position, and, it is said besides, that the sun shone in the faces of the French, and dazzled their eyes; and, moreover, that there had been a shower of rain, which relaxed the bow-strings of the French, whilst the

English, to prevent this, had kept *their* bows in cases. I do not know how all this might be, but it is certain that the English gave the French a complete beating. I mentioned the king's son Edward, the *Black Prince.* He is supposed to have been called the *Black* Prince, because he generally wore black armour. If you were ever to go to Windsor Castle, you might see the very armour which this prince wore. There was one part of the battle of Cressy, when the young prince was fighting so desperately, and rushing into such great dangers, that some of his officers thought he must be cut to pieces, and that he was in need of help; they, accordingly, went up to the king, and begged him to come to the assistance of the prince. The old king saw plainly that his son was winning the battle, and he, therefore, refused to come. "Tell the prince," he said, "that the honour of this day shall be all his own." This speech added such courage to young Edward, and to the soldiers, that they quickly carried all before them, and gained a most complete victory.

Soon after this, Edward besieged *Calais.* You know where Calais is. It is the town where you

land, in France, when you cross the sea from Dover. Edward was very anxious to get possession of Calais, that he might have a place in France where he could land his men, and thus might with more ease conquer the country. He accordingly surrounded Calais with his army; but the brave citizens made a long and bold defence. For a whole year, all the attempts of Edward to take the town were vain. The citizens, during this time, were suffering dreadful hardships for want of food; and it was indeed hunger alone that obliged them to surrender at last. When they did submit, Edward was so angry with them for holding out so long, that he at first threatened to put every one of them to death. He was, however, afterwards, content with having six of the principal citizens brought out to execution with halters about their necks. These brave men would every one of them have been hanged, (for nothing but their good and brave conduct,) had not the queen of England herself fallen on her knees before the king, and entreated him to pardon them. The king listened to the mild entreaties of queen Philippa, and set these excellent citizens at liberty.

Whilst Edward was in France, the Scotch, taking advantage of his absence, made an attempt to invade England with a large army, commanded by their king, David Bruce. This was at a time when the queen, whom we have mentioned before, was in England; and she, without delay, set off herself with an army to oppose them; she met them at Neville's Cross, near Durham; she attacked them, won the battle, and took the king of Scotland himself prisoner.

The Black Prince, shortly afterwards, fought another great battle in France, the famous battle of *Poictiers;* here he took John, king of France, prisoner; so that there were two kings at the same time prisoners in England.

Thus, you see that the reign of Edward the Third is what is called a glorious one, and has brought great honour to the name of England.

But warlike glory will not give happiness, nor ward off afflictions. The Black Prince, you may be sure, was the joy of his father, and the delight of the nation; but his race of glory was soon run; his health began to fail him: and he was wasting away by a consumption. During this time, the possessions which had been gained in

France were lost, both for want of a supply of men from England, and on account of the prince's illness, which prevented him from carrying on the war with his usual spirit. Soon after this, the prince died, to the great grief of his father and of all the English people. The poor king, they say, never looked up again. He could not go on with public business, but gave it all up, and left the cares of the state to a set of people who conducted matters in a miserable manner, and laid aside all reverence for their king. He died at Shene, (now called Richmond,) in Surrey, deserted by all his courtiers, and by those who had grown rich in his service.

"Mighty victor, mighty lord!
Low on his funeral couch he lies:
No pitying heart, no eye afford
A tear to grace his obsequies."—GRAY.

He died in the year 1377, after a long reign of fifty years. There are very few kings who have reigned so long. I have mentioned them before to you. I hope you take my advice, and try to remember the dates; I suppose you make a sort of table of kings, according to the plan that I

mentioned to you before. You can write the dates against every one of them, as I have done below. There is a little boy, a friend of yours, who knows every king of England, and every date, and can write them all down. His little sister can do so too; and I expect that you will be able to do the same.

I am your affectionate father, &c.

William, 1st. (1066)
|
William 2nd. (1087)—Henry 1st. (1100)—Adela.
|
Matilda
|
Henry 2nd. (1154)
|
Richard 1st. (1189)—John (1199)
|
Hen. 3rd. (1216)
|
Edw. 1st. (1272)
|
Edw. 2nd. (1307)
|
Edw. 3rd. (1327)

Character of Edward III. (*as given by Smollett.*)

"Edward's constitution had been injured by the fatigues of his youth; so that he began to feel the infirmities of old age before the usual

time; and now he was seized with a malignant fever, attended with eruptions that soon put a period to his life. When his distemper became so violent that no hope of his recovery remained, all his attendants forsook him, as a bankrupt no longer able to requite their services. He was left without one domestic to close his eyes, and do the last offices to his breathless corpse. In this deplorable condition, bereft of comfort and assistance, the mighty Edward lay expiring; when a priest, not quite so savage as the rest of his domestics, approached his bed; and, finding him still breathing, began to administer some comfort to his soul. Edward had not yet lost all perception, when he found himself thus abandoned and forlorn in the last moments of his life. He was just able to express a deep sense of sorrow and contrition for the errors of his conduct, and died pronouncing the name of Jesus.

"Such was the end of Edward the Third, undoubtedly one of the greatest princes that ever swayed the sceptre of England; whether we respect him as a warrior, a lawgiver, a monarch, or a man. * * * * He was tall, majestic, finely shaped, with a piercing eye, and aquiline visage. He excelled

all the people of his time in feats of arms, and personal address. He was courteous, affable, and eloquent, of a free deportment and agreeable conversation, and had the art of commanding the affections of his subjects, without seeming to solicit popularity. The love of glory was certainly the ruling passion of Edward: for the sake of which he did not scruple to sacrifice the feelings of humanity, the lives of his subjects, and the interests of his country. And nothing could have induced or enabled his people to bear the load of taxes with which they were encumbered in his reign, but the love and admiration of his person, the fame of his victories, and the excellent laws and regulations which the parliament enacted with his advice and concurrence."

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Edward the Third begin to reign?
What age was he when he came to the throne?
Who endeavoured to keep the power out of the hands of the young king?
Where did the king seize upon the queen-mother and Mortimer?
What became of Mortimer?
What of the queen?

What was the disposition of Edward the Third?
What kingdom did he attempt to conquer?
Did he fight a great battle against the Scotch?
What battle? and who conquered?
What nation did he next attempt to conquer?
What great battle did he fight in France?
Was the king's son in this battle?
What was the young prince called?
Can you relate any of the particulars of the battle of Cressy
What town in France did Edward besiege?
In what part of France does Calais lie?
How long was it before Calais surrendered?
How did Edward treat the citizens of Calais after their surrender?
When king Edward was in France, did the Scots attempt to invade England?
Who commanded them?
Do you remember the particulars of the battle of Neville's Cross?
Who was taken prisoner?
What other great battle did the Black Prince fight in France?
Who was taken prisoner?
Did the Black Prince ever live to be king?
How did the king bear the loss of his son?
How was he treated by his courtiers when oppressed with age and infirmities?
In what year did Edward the Third die?
How long had he reigned?

Can you make a table of English kings from William the Conqueror to Edward the Third, with the dates of the years when they began to reign?

LETTER XIII.

MY DEAR BOY,

I AM very happy to find, by the letters which I receive from you, that you pay so much attention to the accounts which I send you. This is a great encouragement to me to go on. I told you, in my last letter, that Edward the Black Prince died before the king, his father; so that the heir to the throne was the *son* of the Black Prince, a boy only eleven years old, called Richard. This Richard, the Second, being too young to govern, the affairs of the kingdom were managed by his uncles, the dukes of Lancaster, York, and Gloucester. The wars which the late king had begun, were so dreadfully expensive, that very large taxes were obliged to be raised to carry them on. In our days, taxes are so contrived, if possible, that but little of the burden of them may fall upon the poor: but, in this king

Richard's reign, a tax of four groats was laid upon every person above the age of fifteen. This caused a great rebellion. One *Wat Tyler*[1], a blacksmith, refused to pay it, and he headed a great mob, and went to London to endeavour to excite a commotion. King Richard, then just sixteen years old, agreed to meet him in Smithfield, to listen to his account of the grievances of the people, and to try to remedy them. This was nobly done of the young king, who was indeed a very fine promising young man. Nothing could be better than his behaviour: but *Tyler* behaved in so insolent a manner, shaking his sword as if he were threatening the king, and conducting himself so rudely, that the lord mayor, William Walworth, knocked him down with his mace; and one of his attendants killed him with his sword. You may be sure that Wat Tyler's people were angry enough when they saw their leader killed; and they were just preparing for a violent attack, when the young king

[1] The leaders of this mob assumed feigned names; such as Wat Tyler, Jack Straw, Hob Carter, and Tom Miller, by which they were fond of denoting their mean origin. HUME.

said to them, in the most kind and endearing manner, "You have lost your leader: but I will be your leader; follow me, and your wishes shall be granted." Thus the king, by his courage and good conduct, at once put an end to the fury of the mob; and they quietly went to their homes. As the king's life seems to have been preserved by the Lord Mayor, the coat of arms of the city of London was honoured with the representation of the bloody dagger which was the cause of his deliverance; and you know that this dagger is in the city arms at the present day.

The young king began his reign well, but he did not go on so; in short, he soon showed that he was a very weak king; and all his affairs, therefore, went on ill. It would be tedious to tell you of all his mismanagement; but one thing is worth mentioning, as it was, perhaps, the cause why he lost the crown. The dukes of Norfolk and Hereford had had a quarrel; and, instead of hearing which was right and which was wrong, the king ordered them both to be banished. The duke of Norfolk died abroad; but Hereford came back again rather sooner than the king expected him. This duke of Hereford was the first

cousin of the king, being the son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, the king's uncle. Now, as the king governed so badly, and every body was dissatisfied with him, this Hereford (who was now become duke of Lancaster by the death of his father) thought he could get the crown for himself; and accordingly landed at Ravenspur in Yorkshire, and was joined by a great number of powerful people, so that he was soon able to get rid of the king, and to be crowned in his stead. This was, in truth, a most wicked piece of injustice; for this duke of Lancaster had no right at all to the throne whilst Richard was alive; and, indeed, if Richard had been dead, still Lancaster had no right to it, as it belonged of right to the family of Richard's uncle, the duke of Clarence, who was older than the late duke of Lancaster. This family is called the house of *York*[1]; and it was the disputes between these two families which made the civil wars which so long raged in England between the houses of *York* and *Lancaster*.

[1] It was called the house of *York*, because a duke of York married a female of the Clarence line, and thus the title was changed.

The poor king Richard was barbarously murdered in Pomfret Castle. Some say that eight murderers were sent to kill him, and that he snatched a pole-axe from one of them, and laid four of them dead at his feet; and was then himself knocked on the head with a pole-axe. Some say, he was starved to death, not having had any thing given him to eat for a fortnight. Whichever it was, it was horrible enough. This murder was committed in the year 1399. The power which Richard's grandfather had gained in France was lost again in this weak king's reign. So much for the benefits of fighting!

I am your affectionate father, &c.

QUESTIONS.

Whose son was Edward the Black Prince?
Did he die before his father?
Who was then heir to the throne?
How old was Richard the Second when his father died?
In what year did he come to the throne?
Who managed the affairs of the kingdom while Richard was too young to govern?
Were large taxes required, to pay the expenses of the late king's wars?
What tax was considered very severe on the poor?

After what age were they required to pay this?
Who resisted it?
Who headed a mob and marched to London?
Where did the king meet Wat Tyler and his followers?
How did the young king conduct himself on this occasion?
How did Tyler behave?
How did the Lord Mayor act?
What was the Lord Mayor's name?
When Wat Tyler was killed, were not his people very much enraged?
How were they pacified?
Did king Richard the Second continue to act as well as he had begun?
What two noblemen had a quarrel?
How did the king act towards them?
Did one of them return?
Did he try to get the kingdom?
Who was this?
Whose son was he, and what relation was he to the king?
Had he any right to the throne during the king's lifetime?
Would he have had any right to it, even if the king had been dead?
What family ought to have had the throne after the death of Richard?
What caused the disputes between the houses of York and Lancaster?
What was the end of Richard?
Where was he murdered?
In what year was this?

LETTER XIV.

MY DEAR BOY,

In our last letter, we saw that the duke of Lancaster was made king, under the title of *Henry the Fourth.* We saw, too, that he had no right at all to the throne, as it properly belonged to the duke of York's family, which was descended from Lionel, duke of Clarence, the *elder* brother of John of Gaunt, Henry's father.

There is no happiness to be enjoyed from what is gained by foul means; and *this* Henry soon found out. He was constantly harassed by plots and rebellions. Those very persons who had helped him to get the crown, were now the first to endeavour to take it from him, when they saw how haughtily he carried himself toward his former friends. The duke of Northumberland, a powerful nobleman, was one of those who had formerly assisted him, and who now rebelled

against him: and this duke had a son, a brave and gallant youth, but so fierce and fiery, that they called him Hotspur. This family, and many others, raised a powerful army against the king; and a great battle was fought between them at Shrewsbury; where, however, the rebels were completely beaten, and Hotspur was killed. The king himself was in this battle, and fought bravely. His son, too, was there, the same who was afterwards that brave king, Henry the Fifth. Here this prince, young as he was, showed that he knew how to fight, and gave a sort of earnest of the kind of man he was afterwards to be. He did wonders in this battle; and some people say that it was he that killed Hotspur. This prince, however, though he could fight so well, is generally represented as a bad sort of young man; and his loose behaviour, his fondness for bad company, and his profligate living, were said to be the cause of great affliction to his father. All the riches and all the greatness in the world will never make any one happy who has the affliction of having an unthankful son. It is true that this young prince did, afterwards, become a wise and a great king. The old king, plagued by rebellions, and tormented

in his conscience by the remembrance of his own cruelty to the late king, and of the unjust means by which he gained his crown, seems to have had no peace and no happiness [1].

You know that Shakspeare wrote several plays from the History of England; he has given us a beautiful speech of Henry the Fourth, on "Sleep," where the king seems to have been so harassed with cares and vexations, and the stings of conscience, that he could get no sleep to close his eyes; and he seems most anxiously to wish to lay aside the troubles of state, and the torments of mind which accompanied them, and to change places with the lowest of his subjects.

"How many thousands of my poorest subjects
Are, at this hour, asleep! Sleep, gentle Sleep,
Nature's soft nurse, how have I frighted thee,
That thou no more wilt weigh my eyelids down,
And steep my senses in forgetfulness?
Why, rather, Sleep, liest thou in smoky cribs,
Upon uneasy pallets stretching thee,

[1] Historians have generally given this unfavourable account of the early days of Prince Henry. The Rev. J. E. Tyler, in his Memoirs of Henry V., has shown the falsehood of their representations. 4th edition.

And hushed with buzzing night-flies to thy slumber;
Than in the perfum'd chambers of the great,
Under the canopies of costly state,
And lull'd with sounds of sweetest melody?
——Wilt thou, upon the high and giddy mast,
Seal up the ship-boy's eyes, and rock his brains
In cradle of the rude imperious surge?——
Canst thou, O partial Sleep, give thy repose
To the wet sea-boy in an hour so rude;
And, in the calmest and the stillest night,
With all appliances and means to boot,
Deny it to a king? Then, happy *low*, lie down,
Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown."

You see, the king seems to think "*low*" people the happiest, and considers that *they* "lie down" in peace, while the great are harassed on all sides with cares and torments. A man, however, whose conscience torments him, will never sleep soundly, whether he be high or low.

Henry the Fourth died in the year 1413.

I am your affectionate father, &c

QUESTIONS.

After Richard the Second was murdered, who was king of England?

To whose family did the crown properly belong?

Did Henry the Fourth enjoy his power in peace? or did any of his subjects rebel against him?

Who raised an army to fight against the king?

What great battle was fought?

Which side gained the victory, and who was killed?

Was the king in the battle?

Was his son?

Who was that son?

Was this prince a good young man or not?

Did his behaviour greatly distress his father?

Did he afterwards improve?

Was the king's mind disturbed with the thoughts of the unjust way in which he got the throne, and with his cruelty to the late king?

Will the remembrance of past wickedness torment the conscience, and drive away the refreshment of sleep?

Which is the happier, a poor labourer, whose mind is at ease; or a king, whose mind is filled with cares, and whose conscience is stung with the remembrance of sin?

In what year did Henry the Fourth die?

LETTER XV.

MY DEAR BOY,

In my last letter, I gave you a short account of the history of Henry the Fourth. The next king was Henry the Fifth, his eldest son. I told you what a wild young man this prince is said to have been[1].

You may be sure that, when this young prince came to be king, all his riotous companions would expect that they should be in great favour, and that they should be enabled to indulge in all their profligate schemes and wicked pleasures. But they soon found the difference; for the king sent for them, and told them that he was thoroughly ashamed of his past behaviour: he gave them each a small allowance, sufficient to enable them to live honestly, without being tempted to unfair means

[1] We have left this account nearly as it was in the former editions; but Mr. Tyler's new work gives us an entirely different view of the subject.

of supporting themselves; and he, at the same time, ordered them never to come into his presence again, till they had completely altered their manners and practices.

The orderly and good people, on the other hand, expected that *they* should find no favour; but they soon experienced, to their great joy, the altered disposition of the new king. There is a pretty story of Sir William Gascoyne, who had once sent the young prince to prison for his riotous and bad behaviour. This upright judge felt it to be his duty to punish what was wrong, wherever he found it; he knew that the laws of England made no difference between the rich and the poor, and he was honest enough to execute these laws in a fair and impartial manner. He thought of his *duty* rather than of his *interest*, and, therefore, he committed the *prince* to prison for his ill conduct, just the same as he would have done the poorest person in the kingdom. But, when this young prince came to be king, Sir William Gascoyne naturally expected that he should suffer for his former conduct: but, instead of this, the young king sent for him; told him that he had acted rightly and nobly, encouraged him to go on in the same

honest and independent manner, and bestowed on him great marks of approbation and favour. Thus did this young king begin to govern, pursuing exactly the course to make his kingdom prosperous, and his people happy; encouraging all those whose characters were good, and setting his face wholly against flatterers, and drunkards, and profligates.

You know, that in the times of which I am writing, the *Roman Catholic* form of religion was professed in England; the religion of this country and of many others, being then very much under the power of the Popes of Rome, whose ambition and pride had led them, in many respects, to corrupt and pervert the true religion of Christ. It seemed to be their wish to keep the people in ignorance. The Bible and Prayer Book were in the Latin language; so that the people knew little of the real meaning of the Gospel, and had but little opportunity of knowing more. When we get to the reign of Henry the Eighth, we shall see that these things were altered. there was a *Reformation;* and those who opposed and protested against the religion of the pope were called *Protestants;* which is the name, as you know, by

which we are called now. But though, I say, the Protestant religion was not established in England till the reign of Henry the Eighth, yet there were some good men who endeavoured to enlighten the minds of the people, long before that time. So early as the reign of Richard the Second, *Wickliffe* translated the Bible into English; but this gave great offence, and people were forbidden to read it; and many were actually put to death, because they wished to read the Bible.

There was one nobleman, in particular, Lord Cobham, who was very desirous of bringing about a reformation; and he encouraged the people to read Wickliffe's Bible. For this he was seized, and sent a prisoner to the Tower; and, some time afterwards, he was put to death in the most cruel and dreadful manner that can be conceived. They applied all sorts of tortures to him; and, at last, they fastened a chain round his body, and actually roasted him alive over a slow fire.

It was by such cruelties as these that the enemies of religion endeavoured to keep down the knowledge of the truth; and, as we go on in

our history, we shall see a great deal more about these dreadful persecutions.

These cruelties could not, however, put a stop to the progress of religion; on the contrary, they were the means of giving strength to the cause. They proved how little of true Christianity these persecutors had, and thus made the real Christians more anxious for a reformation. The patience, too, with which the Protestant martyrs bore their sufferings, was a convincing proof that they felt their cause to be good; and they were supported under their trials by the almighty power of God. The Papists did indeed persecute the Protestants in a most dreadful manner, and inflicted every torture that their malice could invent. It is true, that cruelties were practised on both sides; and, indeed, where there is a want of the true spirit of Christ's religion, whatever a man may be called, he will be ready to commit any kind of wickedness to which he may be tempted. We shall, however, see more of this subject when we come to the time of the Reformation in the reign of Henry the Eighth; and more still, when we look at the cruelties in the time of his daughter, the bloody queen Mary. But I think that, even

at the time we are writing about, we can see something like the *beginning* of the reformation; and we can see why *Wickliffe* is sometimes called the father of the Reformation.

It seems that king Henry the Fifth, of whose reign we are now treating, was desirous of putting a stop to these dreadful persecutions; and that he thought the most likely way of doing so was to turn the minds of the people to foreign wars. He, therefore, made war against the French, and attempted to get the crown of France from their king, declaring that he himself was their proper king. He went over to France, with as large an army as he could raise, determined, if possible, to gain the kingdom.

At first, every thing appeared to go wrong with him. A dreadful sickness prevailed in his army, and he lost a great number of his men: he was, moreover, hemmed in, in a place where he had no means of escaping; and he was obliged to come to an engagement, although it is said that the enemy had ten times as large an army as his own. This was the famous battle of Agincourt, where, notwithstanding the smallness and the sickness of his army, he gained a complete victory

over the French. After this, the French were glad to make peace; and it was agreed that king Henry should marry the daughter of the king of France, and that he should have the crown of France after the death of the present king.

This being settled, Henry determined to live at Paris (the capital town of France); and there he had a grand court, and lived in much greater state than the French king himself. One day the two kings and their two queens dined together in state, with their crowns on their heads: but the poor king of France received very little respect, all the honour being bestowed upon king Henry. This was indeed a grand and proud day for Henry: but pride was not made for man; and there is always enough in this world to remind the rich, as well as the poor, of the vanity of all earthly things. King Henry was seized with a dangerous and painful illness, which soon put a stop to all his earthly greatness, and brought him to his grave at the early age of thirty-four. This king was one of the greatest warriors that we read of in history, but his glory was soon at an end. He died in the year 1422.

How much may we learn from history of the

vanity of all worldly ambition:—may this teach us to "set our affections on things above!" And, when we see that troubles belong to the great as well as to the small, may this teach us to be contented in the station in which Providence has placed us, and make us anxious to perform the duties of our calling with cheerfulness and Christian thankfulness! I am, &c.

Character of Henry the Fifth (from Smollett).

"Henry was tall and slender, with a long neck, and engaging countenance, and limbs of the most elegant form. He excelled all the young men of that age in activity and the exercise of arms. He was hardy, patient, and laborious; and more capable of enduring cold, hunger, and fatigue, than any soldier in his army. His bravery was such as no danger could startle, and no difficulty oppose. He was chaste, temperate, moderate, and devout, exact and just in his conduct, and strict in the discipline of his army, on which he knew that his glory and success in a great measure depended. He was, perhaps, never equalled in the arts of war and of government. We cannot help seeing, however, that, like many other great warriors, he was

ambitious, and sometimes cruel[1]. We must, however, acknowledge that he was one of the greatest soldiers recorded in history."

As I have mentioned Wickliffe, I cannot help sending you the following short account of him.

Wickliffe was born in 1324, and died in 1384. He was a strong opposer of the corruptions and usurpations of the Church of Rome; and from him we are to date the dawn of the Reformation in this kingdom. He published a translation of the whole Bible in the English language then spoken; but not being sufficiently acquainted with the Hebrew and Greek languages to translate from the originals, he made his translations from the Latin Bibles, which were at that time read in the churches. So offensive was his translation of the Bible to those who were for taking away the key of knowledge, that a bill was brought into the House of Lords, in the 13th year of Richard the Second, A.D. 1390, for the purpose of putting it down; on which the duke of Lancaster, the king's uncle, is reported to have spoken to this effect: "We will not be the dregs of all,

[1] Mr. Tyler defends Henry V. from this accusation.

seeing other nations have the law of God, which is the law of our faith, written in their own language." At the same time he declared, in a very solemn manner, "That he would maintain our having this law in our own tongue, against those, whoever they should be, who brought in this bill[1]." The bill, through the influence of the duke, was rejected; and this success gave encouragement to some of Wickliffe's followers to publish another and more correct translation of the Bible. But in the year 1408, it was decreed, "That no one should thereafter translate any text of the Holy Scripture into English, by way of a book, or little book, or tract; and that no book of this kind should be read, that was composed lately in the time of John Wickliffe, or since his death." This led the way to great persecution: and many persons were punished severely, and some even with death, for reading the Scriptures in English. —*Bp. Tomline.*

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Henry the Fifth begin to reign?

What sort of company is this prince said to have delighted in?

[1] Lewis's History of the Translations of the Bible.

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Did he encourage such people after he became king?

How did he treat them?

Can you relate the anecdote of the Lord Chief-Justice, Sir William Gascoyne? And do you remember how the king behaved to this upright judge?

What was the established religion in England at the time we are speaking of?

Was there any disposition, at that time, shown to get rid of the Roman Catholic religion?

What nobleman endeavoured to bring about a reformation?

How was he treated?

Were those who opposed the Roman Catholic religion generally ill-treated?

By what means did the king hope to put a stop to these religious persecutions?

Of what country did he declare that he was the rightful king?

Did he carry on a war against the French in their own country?

Was he successful at first?

What great battle did he fight?

Who conquered?

What agreement was entered into, on peace being made between England and France?

Where did king Henry keep his court after this agreement was made?

To what age did he live?

In what year did he die?

Who was Wickliffe, and what is he sometimes called?

LETTER XVI.

MY DEAR BOY,

In my last letter I told you something about king Henry the Fifth, and his great wars in France; and I must now bring you to the reign of Henry the Sixth, who was the next king; but, at the time of his father's death, he was only a year old. The duke of Bedford was, therefore, appointed Protector of the kingdom, till the little king should be old enough to govern for himself. The duke of Bedford continued to carry on the war in France; but the affairs of that country took so strange a turn, that the English power in France, in a very few years, was brought entirely to an end. This was accomplished in a way so extraordinary, that it seems almost beyond belief.

There lived in a village in France, a country girl, called Joan of Arc, who had been servant at

an inn; and this girl had got a notion that she was fated to deliver her country from its enemies. She gave it out that she had particular messages from Heaven on this business: and this notion so inflamed the minds of the people, and so raised their spirits, that they were excited to wonderful deeds of courage; and this girl, clad in armour, sword in hand, led the soldiers against the English army, which was then besieging the town of Orleans, and completely drove them away; and, with her help, the French continued to gain great advantages against the English. This poor girl was, however, some time afterwards, taken in battle by the English, and was burned alive as a witch. I don't know which to wonder at most, the ignorance of the people in those days, who believed in witches, or the cruelty of burning a poor young woman alive. The French, however, continued their successes, till the English had scarcely a place left in France.

Things were going on grievously ill, too, all this time, in England. The king had not abilities enough to govern such a nation, and there was dissatisfaction, and a disposition to rebellion, all

over the kingdom. I think I have already told you, that Henry the Fourth (grandfather of this king) had no just title to the throne, but that he got it by force. He was the son of John of Gaunt, duke of Lancaster, the third son of Edward the Third; but the crown, of right, belonged to the family of the second son (on the failure of the first). Now the duke of York was descended from this second branch, and therefore was the right person to be king. The people, therefore, having so much reason to be dissatisfied with their present king, began to turn their thoughts to the house of York.

In this state of things, a fellow named John Cade pretended that he belonged to the York family, and that he was the proper king; and he persuaded many people to believe him, and to follow him. He had as many as twenty thousand followers—he got as near to London as Blackheath, and there he encamped his mob of an army, and then marched to London. He was soon, however, driven back as far as Rochester; and there many of his friends forsook him. A reward was offered to any one who would put him to death, and bring his head as a proof that he had done the

deed. Cade was then soon seized, and put to death, and his head was set up on London Bridge.

The duke of York rejoiced in all these disturbances, as they gave him a better chance of having his real claim listened to, and of possessing himself of the crown. He soon began to show his intention. The king about this time was seized with an illness, and the duke of York was appointed to govern in his place. Having once acted as king, he did not choose to give up his power, even when the king was restored to health. Now, perhaps, the king's gentle disposition would have led him to give way to the claims of the duke of York: but Margaret, his queen, was a person of a very different disposition, and she proceeded to open war against the duke and his friends. This was the beginning of the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster, which raged for so many years, and was the cause of so many dreadful battles, and such bloodshed, and savage contentions. War at all times is a dreadful scourge to a nation: but a civil war, where those of the same country, and many relations and neighbours, are fighting one against another, is, perhaps, the most dreadful of all kinds of war. I shall not

attempt to describe to you the different places where these battles were fought: but sometimes one side gained the victory, and sometimes the other. There was a battle at Blore-heath, and another at Wakefield, and two at St. Alban's, and many more at other places besides.

At the battle of Wakefield, the duke of York's army was beaten, and he himself was killed. However, his party soon recovered themselves, and in a battle at Tewkesbury were victorious. The son of the duke of York was then proclaimed king, by the title of Edward the Fourth, in the year 1461.

Poor king Henry, it is said, was afterwards murdered in his chamber by king Edward's brother, the duke of Gloucester, who was afterwards crooked-back king Richard the Third, of whose cruelty we read such terrible accounts:—and the son of Henry was likewise stabbed by this same Gloucester and the duke of Clarence, after the battle of Tewkesbury. Thus I have given you an account of this reign, in which we read of little else besides battles and cruel murders. I think you will now understand what is meant by the wars between the houses of York and Lancaster

These are sometimes called the wars of the "Roses," because the Lancaster party wore *red* roses in their hats, and the York party wore *white* ones. In the season when real roses were not to be had, I suppose they were contented with roses made of red and white ribbons.

You see we have had three kings together of the house of Lancaster, and now we get into the house of York. And you see, too, that the family of Lancaster had no title to the throne; hence they are sometimes called "usurpers," because they first, by means of Henry the Fourth, got the crown, not by right, but by force. Here you see the reason why Gray calls the pious Henry the Sixth "the meek usurper."

> "Revere his consort's faith, his father's fame,
> And spare the meek usurper's holy head."

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Henry the Sixth begin to reign?
How old was he when his father, Henry the Fifth, died?
Who was appointed Protector whilst the king was too young to govern?

Did the duke of Bedford carry on the war in France?

Was he successful?

By what strange means were the English affairs in France entirely changed?

Who was Joan of Arc?

What French town did she relieve by driving the English away?

Was she, at length, taken in battle by the English?

How did they treat her?

How were things going on in England during all this time?

What relation was Henry the Sixth to Henry the Fourth?

Had this branch of the royal family a right to the throne?

Was not this the Lancaster family?

Was not the duke of York descended from an elder branch of the family?

Ought he not therefore to have been king?

When the people were dissatisfied with the present king, did they not wish to have one of the York family instead of him?

Did this lead to rebellions?

Who first pretended to be of that family, and tried to raise the country in his favour?

Did many people follow Cade?

How many?

What became of Cade?

During an illness of the king, who was appointed to govern instead of him?

Did the duke of York, having once got possession of power endeavour to keep it in his own hands?

Did this lead to the wars of York and Lancaster?
Who was king Henry's wife[1]?
How did this queen act?
Were many battles fought between the York and Lancaster party?
In what battle was the duke of York's army defeated and himself killed?
In what battle did the duke's party recover itself?
After this success of the York party, who was proclaimed king?
In what year was this?
What became of Henry the Sixth, after Edward the Fourth was proclaimed king?
Who was the duke of Gloucester, and what was his character?
Why were the wars of York and Lancaster sometimes called the wars of the Roses?
Which party wore a red rose, and which wore a white one?
How many kings have we had of the house of Lancaster?

LETTER XVII.

MY DEAR BOY,

As you seem desirous of attending to these short accounts which I send you of the reigns of the English kings, I am glad to write to you

[1] Margaret of Anjou.

on this subject. If you remember well what I write, you will get a view of some of the principal parts of our history; and, when you are old enough to study a larger History of England, you will, perhaps, be able to gain more advantage from it than if you had begun with a large one at first; and even now, by means of these short accounts, you will not be wholly ignorant of the history of your own country.

In my last letter, I told you that Edward, the son of the duke of York, was proclaimed king, in the year 1461, by the title of Edward the Fourth. We are informed that he was one of the finest and handsomest looking men in the kingdom. But I have no respect for him on that account. I cannot read of any thing that was good in his conduct,—but I read of a great deal that was very disgraceful and wicked. He was dreadfully cruel, and revengeful, and profligate. The following story will show you the cruelty of his disposition, and his revengeful spirit. It happened one day, that he was hunting in the park of a gentleman, named Thomas Burdett. Now this gentleman was a great friend of the duke of Clarence, the king's brother; and as the king was

angry with his brother, on account of an old quarrel, he was glad to do a spiteful action to his brother's friend; and he accordingly killed a white buck which belonged to this gentleman, and which was a great favourite. Upon this, Burdett flew into a passion, and said, he wished the horns of the deer were in the belly of the man who advised the king to this insult. For these words, Burdett was tried for his life, and hanged at Tyburn. A horrible piece of cruelty, the thoughts of which make us glad that we do not live in such days of tyranny and oppression. We may be sure that the duke of Clarence was grieved and angry at this savage act of revenge, as well as at the loss of his friend; and he spoke out his sentiments plainly, and said that the sentence was both unjust and cruel. For speaking these words, the king ordered the duke of Clarence himself to be put to death; and there is a strange story about the manner in which this sentence was executed. It is said, that the duke was allowed to choose what death he would die: and he chose to be drowned in a butt of Malmsey, a wine of which it seems he was very fond. Accordingly a large cask of this wine was brought into the

Tower, and into this the duke was thrown, with his head downwards, and thus was drowned.

The king was preparing for a war against the French, when he was seized with an illness of which he soon afterwards died, at the age of about forty-one. This was in the year 1483.

It is impossible to read the history of former times, without shuddering at the horrible cruelties which were committed, and the tyrannical manner in which many of the kings of England, in those days, reigned over their people. And it seems that, in the days we are reading of, they were allowed to commit most dreadful acts of oppression, without any sort of check or control. How happy ought we to think ourselves, that we are secure, in these days, from such cruelties and oppressions! There are many people now who complain of the want of liberty, and talk a great deal against rule, and government, and seem full of anger and envy against every body who is richer and greater than themselves. I cannot help seeing that the greater part of these complaints are made without any reason at all. I am sure, if we would fairly consider these things, as we ought to do, that, instead of mur-

muring and complaining, we should find a great deal indeed to be thankful for. Such cruelties, as we read of in history, could not be practised in our days. Our king and our nobles do not seem to have any wish to injure their inferiors; but, if they had such a wish, the laws would not allow them to do it; and we ought to consider it a great blessing that we live under such just and merciful laws. The poor, as well as the rich, are defended against any injury to their persons or their possessions; and we have all liberty to do every thing that is good and right for us to do. I never could make out what people meant by the cry of liberty, which we often hear so much of. I have lived to be an old man: and I never in all my lifetime found that there was any law to prevent me from doing any thing that a Christian man ought to wish to do. As to my going and taking any other man's property, I am thankful to say, that I never had any wish for it: if I had, the laws would have checked me, and very properly too; but the same laws protect *my* property likewise. If a person is richer than I am, I have no liberty to go and take away his property from him; and this is very proper:—

and nobody has any right to take away mine. This sort of restraint is good and necessary for us all; and, instead of taking away real liberty, is the very way to give us true security and happiness. But I am getting away from the History of England, and shall therefore stop

I am, my dear boy,

Your affectionate father.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Edward the Fourth come to the throne?

What was his appearance?

What was his character?

Can you relate the story of king Edward and the duke of Clarence and Sir Thomas Burdett? Try to relate it to me in a clear and distinct manner; I don't require every word as it is in the book, but show me that you remember it; and it will be a piece of good practice for you, that you may learn to express yourself in a straightforward manner, without hesitating and stammering.

What relation was the duke of Clarence to the king?

Was the king about to engage in war?

Against what nation?

What prevented this?

How old was the king when he died?

In what year did he die?

LETTER XVIII.

MY DEAR BOY,

I TOLD you, in my last letter, that Edward the Fourth died in the year 1483. He left three children, two sons and a daughter. The eldest son was named Edward, and the next Richard: the daughter's name was Elizabeth. The eldest son was, therefore, now Edward the Fifth: but, as he was too young to govern, being only thirteen years of age, his uncle, Richard duke of Gloucester, was appointed Protector. This was the same man, as I have already told you, who was afterwards Richard the Third, and sometimes called Crooked-back Richard; because they say that he was born with a shrivelled and crooked form:—and his mind was still worse than his body. Instead of taking care of his little nephews, he determined to kill them, that he might be king himself. But, as these children had many

friends ready to defend and protect them, their bloody-minded uncle thought, that, before he could kill them, he must get rid of their friends.

There was a powerful man, Lord Hastings, who was a great friend to the young king and his brother; and therefore Crooked-back Richard was determined to kill him: and, for this purpose, he one day summoned him to a council, in the Tower of London. When the council was assembled, Richard came in, frowning and looking very frightful; and the Lords of the council saw that something terrible was going to happen. Then Richard showed them his bare, withered arm, and said that Jane Shore and her accomplices had withered it by their witchcraft; which, you know, was a mere pretence, because all stories about witchcraft are idle tales: and, besides, they all believed that Richard's arm was shrivelled when he was born. Lord Hastings said, "If they have done so, they deserve to be punished." "If!" said the Protector with a loud voice; "dost thou answer me with 'Ifs?' I tell thee, that they have laid a plot for my death; and that thou thyself art one of them." He then struck the table twice; and a number of armed soldiers im-

mediately came in. Richard ordered them to take Lord Hastings away; and he made a vow that he would not dine till he had seen his head taken off. And his head was immediately struck off on a block of wood that happened to be near the place.

The more we look back upon the history of our country, the more reason we have to be thankful that we live in times when no person, however high his rank, would be allowed to commit such dreadful barbarity. I have often made this remark to you before, and I see fresh reason to repeat it, the more I consider the true state of things in former days and at present.

I mentioned Jane Shore. She was the wife of a citizen of London, a goldsmith in Lombard-street; and she had left her husband to live with the late king, Edward the Fourth. For this wickedness she was severely punished; yet it was not because of her real crimes that Richard was enraged against her, but because she felt compassion for the late king's children, and was desirous of taking their part against their cruel uncle. It was formerly the custom for persons who had been guilty of any notorious crime, to do penance

as it was called: that is, to walk to church barefooted, in a white sheet, with a candle in their hands. Jane Shore walked in this manner through the streets of London to St. Paul's Church; and, after this, every one was forbidden to give her any thing to eat or drink, or to take her into their houses: and thus she wandered about in the greatest misery and poverty; which she must have felt the more severely, from having formerly been accustomed to every kind of luxury and splendour;—and the sense of her own sins, no doubt, hung heavy upon her mind. Every body, however, pitied her, because, though she had been guilty of a great crime, she had been kind and generous when she had the power. But nobody dared assist her; and after wandering about a long time in rags and poverty, she at last sunk down and died.

The wicked Richard now began to think of taking possession of the throne; and, by his hypocrisy and false pretences, he persuaded many of the people to be on his side. And then the mayor and aldermen of London came and offered him the crown. He pretended that he did not wish to be king; but this was only a piece of

deceit to hide his wicked design. He thought, however, that he could not reign in peace, as long as his nephews lived; and, therefore, he determined to murder the young king and his little brother, the duke of York. He ordered Brackenbury, the governor of the Tower, to put them both to death. This merciful man refused to be guilty of such a crime; he was, therefore, removed from his office, and another person, called Sir James Tyrrel, was put into his place. This Tyrrel hired three cruel wretches to do the dreadful deed; they came at night, when the dear children were fast asleep, and they went into the chamber and smothered them both with pillows, whilst the wretch Tyrrel stood at the door. Then they buried the bodies at the foot of the stairs, and covered them up, and put the stone pavement in its place again, so that, for a long time, nobody knew where the bodies were. They were found by some workmen under the stairs, many years afterwards.

The reign of poor Edward the Fifth, you see, was very short, not many months; and, indeed, as he was, during this time, shut up in the Tower, and was there cruelly murdered in his child-

hood, he cannot properly be said to have reigned at all.

And now this wicked duke of Gloucester was king, by the title of Richard the Third. His reign was so cruel and tyrannical, that he was detested by all his subjects, and they heartily wished to get rid of him. This encouraged the duke of Richmond to raise an army, and to endeavour to get the crown from the detested Richard. This duke of Richmond belonged to the red-rose party, that is, the house of Lancaster; and he had been obliged to quit the kingdom whilst the kings of the house of York were in power. Trusting that the people, from hatred of their tyrant, would support his cause, he came over from France with a small army, and landed at Milford Haven, in Wales, without opposition. Richard, who was a bold man, soon prepared to meet him. Richmond had been joined by many of the English; and the two armies met at Bosworth Field, in Leicestershire, when Richmond was completely successful, and Richard was killed.

Richmond was then proclaimed king by the title of *Henry the Seventh*, to the great joy of the nation. It is true that he had no real right to the

crown; he got it by conquest: but the people were so glad to get rid of Richard, that they did not seem desirous of inquiring too strictly into the claims of Henry.

In this letter I have given you an account of *two* kings, Edward the Fifth and Richard the Third. The first was king about two months; the other about two years, being killed in Bosworth Field, in the year 1485.

I am, &c.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Edward the Fourth die?
How many children did he leave?
What were their names?
How old was the eldest when his father died?
Who was appointed Protector?
What was the Protector's character?
What nobleman did the Protector put to death?
Under what pretence?
What was the real reason why he destroyed Lord Hastings?
Who was Jane Shore?
How was she punished?
How did the Protector treat the young king and his brother?
Is it supposed that the bodies of these young princes were found some years afterwards?

Who became king after the death of these children?
How did Richard conduct himself?
Who raised an army against him?
What was the consequence of the duke of Richmond's opposition to Richard?
Where was the battle fought between them?
Who then became king?
In what year was Richard the Third killed?

LETTER XIX.

MY DEAR BOY,

I SUPPOSE you were, like all people who read the History of England, very glad that Richard the Third was killed, and that Henry the Seventh was made king in his place. And I suppose you would have been, like the people of England in those days, so glad to have had a new king instead of Richard, that you would not have been very scrupulous to inquire what right this new king had to the throne. It is, however, necessary that the true line of succession should be observed; otherwise we should have endless disputes and

pretensions to the crown,—all which are prevented by giving it to a known and fixed heir. But Henry the Seventh was not the right heir to the throne. The proper person was the princess Elizabeth, the sister of the young princes whom Richard had murdered in the Tower. Henry, however, married this princess, and thus no reason was left for disputing; and there were no more quarrels between the houses of York and Lancaster; for Henry was of the Lancaster family, and Elizabeth of the York; and thus the two houses were united, and there was a happy peace. Henry endeavoured, by all the means in his power, to govern the kingdom properly:—but there are some people who are never satisfied, and who cannot rest contented without trying to excite rebellion and disturbance. So it was in the reign of Henry the Seventh, and so it would be in our days, if the greater part of the people had not more sense and judgment than to listen to the clamour of those who would persuade them that they are at all times ill-used and oppressed.

Henry, by prudence and good management, studied to render the nation flourishing and powerful; he tried, too, by his gentle behaviour, to

pacify those whose minds had long been harassed by disturbances and rebellions. There were, however, some people, who were too turbulent to live at ease, and be satisfied,—and they had been so long accustomed to plots and conspiracies, that they still endeavoured, by some means or other, to raise disturbances and discontent. These people set up a man of the name of Lambert Simnel, the son of a baker, who pretended that he was the son of that duke of Clarence who was drowned in a butt of Malmsey in the Tower. This was, however, so plain a piece of imposition, that few were found willing to join the rebels:—some people, however, did join them; and, among these, some powerful people; and an army was raised on the side of the rebels; but the greater part of the nation remained loyal to their king. A battle was, however, fought between the king's forces and the rebels, at Stoke, in Nottinghamshire, and the rebels were beaten. The king did not think it worth while to use any great severity towards this Simnel, because he was a poor weak young man, led on by his superiors, who ought to have known better. He was made a scullion in the king's kitchen, and afterwards raised to be

keeper of the king's hawks, in which employment he died.

Not long afterwards, another pretender to the crown was set up. This was one Perkin Warbeck. He gave it out that the younger of the children, said to have been murdered in the Tower, was, in fact, not murdered, but was still living;—and Warbeck said that he was this young prince, Richard duke of York. Many people supported this youth's pretensions; and his manners were so good, and he managed himself with so much prudence, that he found himself very powerfully supported; and his story was believed by many persons of rank and consequence. The king took great pains to learn the history of Perkin's birth, and to find out who were the contrivers of the plot. Many of those were taken and executed, and some were pardoned.

When a check was thus given to this youth's progress in England, he went into Scotland, where he found great support from the Scotch king, James the Fourth; and then he came again to England with a considerable army, but he found few of the English willing to join him. Then he went to Ireland, to try his success there.

Then he came again to England, landed in Cornwall, and was joined by several of the Cornish men, and took upon himself the title of Richard the Fourth. He had now an army of seven thousand men. Soon, however, he heard that the king was coming with an army to oppose him, and he then gave up all hopes of success, and left his army to the mercy of the king. Some of the ringleaders were executed, the rest were pardoned. A pardon was offered to Warbeck, upon condition that he would deliver himself up, and confess the circumstances of his imposture; this he consented to do;—but there was so much contradiction in this confession, that, even at this day, some persons believe that his pretension to be the duke of York was not without foundation. I cannot tell how this is; but we know that strange things are set down by writers, according to their own views, or the party to which they belong.

If any of the favourers of Richard the Third had written the history of these times, they would perhaps have made the best of his character, and said every thing that they could find amiss against the character of Henry the Seventh. Just so, as

the history which has come down to us was probably written by the friends of Henry, it has, perhaps, made the worst of Richard's character, and the best of Henry's. It has, however, generally been understood that the two young princes were murdered in the Tower; and, if it were so, then, of course, Warbeck was an impostor;—but this matter I shall not attempt to decide. We may learn, however, to be cautious how we believe the accounts of party writers. There are many such in our own days; and if we were to believe all they tell us, we might imagine that we were even now grievously oppressed and ill-used, and that we were living in a miserable country, and that all our liberty was gone. And some people will read such accounts till they fancy themselves surrounded with every misery, and reduced to wretchedness and slavery. How strange all this seems to you and me, who feel that we have liberty to do just any thing we please, that a Christian man would wish to do! We know, too, that many people are living in great wretchedness, and we hear them complain against the government: but we can see plainly enough that the government has no share in causing their misfortunes, but that

they are very frequently brought on by themselves; —we see that sober and prudent people are generally thriving and prosperous, and that drunken and careless people are generally in distress and poverty. It is true, that sorrow and affliction sometimes visit us, notwithstanding all our exertions; but no government can possibly prevent this.

I am, however, forgetting my history. Henry seems to have been of a gentle disposition; but the perpetual disturbances and rebellions which occurred in his reign, appear to have forced him to frequent acts of severity.

Towards the latter end of his reign, the country became more calm and composed. He died in the year 1509.

Believe me, my dear boy,
Your affectionate father.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did you say that Richard the Third was killed?
Who became king after him?
Was Henry, duke of Richmond, the rightful heir to the crown?

Who was ?

Whom did Henry VII. marry ?

How was it that this marriage put an end to the wars of the houses of York and Lancaster ?

Did Henry govern the kingdom well ?

And yet were rebellions excited against him ?

Who made pretensions to the crown ?

Whom did Lambert Simnel pretend to be ?

Was any battle fought between the king's troops and the rebels ?

Where was it fought ?

Which side conquered ?

What became of Simnel ?

Did any other pretender to the crown arise ?

What was his name ?

Whom did Perkin Warbeck pretend to be ?

Was he supported by many people of rank ?

Are there people who still believe that Perkin Warbeck was really the duke of York, who was said to have been murdered in the Tower by Richard the Third ?

In what year did Henry the Seventh die ?

LETTER XX.

MY DEAR BOY,

We have now got as far in our history of England, as the reign of king Henry the Eighth; and as we come nearer to our own times, it becomes so much the more necessary for us to remember all the particulars of what we read. The reign of Henry the Eighth is highly deserving of our attention. It was in this king's reign that the great work of the Reformation was begun in England. By the *Reformation* we mean the changing the religion of the country from the Roman Catholic to the Protestant. Whilst the Roman Catholic religion prevailed in the Christian world, many practices were allowed and encouraged which were very different from what the Gospel taught and required. The power, too, over religious affairs, was wholly in the hands of the Pope of Rome; and he would often interfere in temporal matters too. This was altogether wrong; for what right had

the pope, who lived at Rome, to attempt to regulate any of the affairs of this kingdom, or of any other? But the worst part of the Roman Catholic religion was, that we could get no Bibles and Prayer Books in our own language; they were all written in Latin, so that they were of no use at all to the greater part of the nation. People, indeed, went to church, and there were many grand processions and splendid shows; but, as the Bible was shut up, there was no knowledge of the truth; and even the public worship could be of no use to any but those few who understood Latin. A great deal of abuse had, indeed, crept into the church; and those things which were, at first, perhaps, intended for a good purpose, were now applied to very bad ones; and it suited the plans of the Popish clergy to keep the people in ignorance,—for a knowledge of the truth would have shown how far they had gone from the directions of Scripture. The people, were, for a long time, thus kept from the knowledge of scriptural truth; and it was very easy to keep them in such ignorance before the art of printing was known, and when books were very dear and difficult to be got at; for there were, indeed, no books at all,

but manuscripts, that is, books written by the hand; and these, we may be sure, could be but few. But, in the reign of Henry the Eighth, the art of printing had become pretty generally known; and, as books became more common, people were able to read them, and judge for themselves. I do not exactly know when the art of printing was invented; but they say that the first book printed in England was by Caxton, in the year 1471, which was, you know, in the reign of Edward the Fourth; but I believe that there were printed books in England rather sooner than that time.

When we speak of the Reformation in England, we generally think of Henry the Eighth, and are thus apt to give him the credit of it; which is indeed much more than he deserved: for whatever he did, he did from self-interest, and not from any wish, as far as I can see, of doing good. First he supported the pope, and then he opposed him, just as his humour or his interest inclined him: sometimes he would punish people for being Papists, and sometimes for being Protestants, and there was indeed no principle and no consistency in any thing that he did. It is impossible, in the

space of a letter, to give you any thing like a full history of the Reformation; you may, perhaps, read more on the subject in some books that you may meet with:—but we shall see, as we go on in our history, that it was not completed, but only begun, in Henry's reign, and that the greater part of the work was done in the reign of his son, Edward the Sixth. Henry the Eighth was, however, made an instrument, in the hands of Providence, of doing much good; and, by allowing the Bible to be translated into English, and read, he afforded encouragement to good and learned men to lay the truth before the people; and thus the way was paved for that further progress in the Reformation, which was made in the days of his son.

But we must now look at other affairs that happened during the reign of Henry the Eighth.

Henry was eighteen years of age when he came to the throne. He was extravagant and fond of pleasure; and soon began to waste, in his expensive vanities and follies, those sums which his wiser father had carefully saved. His chief minister and adviser was cardinal Wolsey, a haughty proud man, and as extravagant and profligate as

his master. He was born in a humble station of life; but the king raised him to the highest honours and dignities in the state,—which made him an object of envy and hatred to all ranks and conditions of the people. But miserable is that man who builds his hopes on earthly greatness! Wolsey's high honours only made his fall the more ruinous: for he did fall, as soon as the king's inclinations, and *his* interests disagreed. You have often heard that Henry the Eighth had six wives, —the first was Catherine of Arragon. And, when Henry was tired of her, and could not fairly get rid of her, he made a strange excuse for parting with her, and he expected Wolsey to help him; but this did not suit the cardinal, and the king, therefore, was determined to ruin him. Wolsey was compelled to give up his palace at York, where he was archbishop; and the king seized all his splendid plate and rich furniture, and then ordered him to be arrested, and brought to London, to take his trial for high treason. He began his journey, and proceeded as far as Leicester; but he had great difficulty in performing this long journey, for he was then old, and sick, and feeble. When he got to Leicester, he went

to the abbey: and the monks came out to meet him. He told them, that he was come to die among them, and begged them to give him, for charity's sake, a little earth to cover his weary bones.

—— With easy roads, he came to Leicester,
Lodged in the abbey; where the reverend abbot,
With all the convent, honourably received him;
To whom he gave these words: "O father Abbot,
An old man, broken with the storms of state,
Is come to lay his weary bones among you;
Give him a little earth for charity."

SHAKSPEARE.

Soon after this, he died full of sorrow and remorse, grieving that he had wasted all his life in pursuit of worldly greatness, instead of aiming at that heavenly kingdom, where the happiness and rich rewards are all-glorious and everlasting! "Had I but served my God," he cried, "with half the zeal that I have served my king, He would not in mine age have given me over to mine enemies."

The reason which Henry pleaded to get rid of his wife was, that his marriage was not lawful, as she was the widow of his elder brother, Arthur

This however, he did not think of, till the queen had lived eighteen years with him, and had a daughter by him (who was afterwards the bloody queen Mary). The truth was, that he had found a young and handsome lady in his court, whom he liked better than his wife; this was Anna Bullen; and he was determined to divorce Catherine, that he might marry *her;* this did not please Wolsey and the Papists, because Anna Bullen was inclined to the Protestant religion; and it was Wolsey's unwillingness to encourage this match, which first provoked the king's anger against him, and brought on his fall. The king, soon after this, married Anna Bullen privately; and, after a time, he publicly acknowledged her; —she brought him a daughter, who was afterwards the famous queen Elizabeth. Soon, however, the king grew weary of this queen, as he had done of the former one, and he seemed determined to get rid of her, and to marry another beautiful lady, called Jane Seymour. To effect his purpose, he endeavoured to find some accusation against the queen, which might justify him in cutting her off; she was accused of loose behaviour and high treason, and she was condemned to

death; and was soon afterwards executed on Tower Hill. She was beheaded by the executioner of Calais, who was brought over from France on purpose, being considered more expert than any in England. Her body was thrown into a common chest, and was buried in the Tower. If you ever go to see the Tower of London, they will show you the very axe which was used in beheading Queen Anna Bullen.

The very next day, the cruel tyrant married Jane Seymour; and he declared that both his daughters, Mary by his first wife, and Elizabeth by the second, were illegitimate, and that they were neither of them to succeed to the crown. Such savage and tyrannical acts of the king, we may be sure, excited great hatred in the minds of the people, and there were many insurrections and rebellions;—the king denied the power of the pope, but still he held the doctrines of popery, so that he persecuted the Papists for supporting the pope's supremacy, and he persecuted the Protestants for denying the popish doctrines;—his angry passions, indeed, were dreadful; and the discontents and oppositions of his subjects filled him with fury. He was, however, put in better humour for

a time, by the birth of a son, (who was afterwards that excellent prince, Edward the Sixth,) but his queen died two days afterwards.

Not long after this the king resolved to have another wife, and here he took a foreign lady, whom he had never seen; this was Anne of Cleves;—her picture was painted for him; and the artist (Holbein) had made it handsome: but when she came over, and the king met her at Rochester, he declared that she was a fat ugly person, and that he never could like her. However, he still determined to marry her, because it was a match that would gain him friends and allies on the continent, and add to his power. The king's dislike, however, to this lady continued, and he resolved to get rid of her;—and, moreover, he had fixed his affections upon another lady, Catherine Howard, and he turned off his queen and married this new favourite. Henry seemed for a time delighted with his new wife,—he was soon, however, informed that her character was bad, and that she had been guilty of much improper conduct, both before and after her marriage. She was tried, and found guilty, and beheaded on Tower Hill.

All this time the king pretended to be con-

cerned about the affairs of religion; he had, indeed, a good deal of what is called *learning* on these matters; but religious *learning* is a very different thing from true religious faith and practice. The king wrote some books on the disputes of that day between the Catholics and Protestants. He had, some time before this, written a book in defence of the *seven* Sacraments; for the Catholics say there are seven Sacraments; we Protestants say that there are only *two*, namely, *Baptism* and the *Lord's Supper;* and we say this, because we do not find any thing in Scripture which justifies us in saying that there are any more Sacraments than these two. Henry, however, pleased the pope by defending the seven Sacraments, and gained the title of "Defender of the Faith," which was indeed a good title in itself, and has been kept by the kings of England ever since; there was, however, nobody who ever deserved it less than Henry the Eighth. About a year after the death of the late queen, Henry married another wife, Catherine Parr, a widow; she was a discreet and pious woman, and studied, by her gentle behaviour, to calm the savage temper of the king. this however, was beyond her power; and at

one time she was in great danger of losing her own life, in consequence of some difference with the king on religious subjects. However, she managed to pacify him on this point; but his savage temper broke out towards his subjects; and many excellent and worthy people were put to death by him. As his end approached, the pains of his body seemed to increase the violence of his temper. He had a painful disorder in his legs, which, growing worse and worse, at length carried him off in the year 1547. There is a great deal of very interesting matter in this reign; but I only attempt to give you a few heads of the History of England, and you may, perhaps, when you have leisure and opportunity, read more fully for yourself, on this subject.

I am your affectionate father.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Henry VIII. begin to reign?

What great change was made in the state of religion during his reign?

What is meant by the Reformation?

Who was considered at the head of the Church before the Reformation?

Where does the pope live?

In what language were the Bibles and Prayer Books written, before the Reformation?

Was the art of printing books known in the reign of Henry VIII.?

Had it been long known?

Who was the first person that printed a book in England?

Had not the art of printing a great effect in leading the minds of the people to right thinking?

How were books made before printing was known?

Were they then very scarce and dear, and difficult to come at?

Was Henry a real and steady friend to the Reformation?

Was the Reformation completed in Henry's time, or only begun?

Who was Henry's chief minister and adviser?

What was Wolsey's character?

Who was Henry's first wife?

When the king wished to get rid of his first wife, would cardinal Wolsey encourage and assist him in this plan?

How did the king then treat Wolsey?

Can you tell me where Wolsey died, and can you relate the circumstances of his death?

What plea did the king make for getting rid of his wife?

How long had they been married?

Had they a daughter, and what was her name? and what was she afterwards?

Whom did the king wish to marry?
Was Anna Bullen a Papist or a Protestant?
Had Anna Bullen any child?
What was its name? and what did it afterwards become?
Did the king, at length, grow tired of Anna Bullen?
What was her fate?
Whom did the king next marry?
How did the king treat the Protestants and the Papists?
Had his third queen, Jane Seymour, any child?
What was its name? and who was it afterwards?
What was the end of this queen?
After her death did the king seek for another wife?
Who was she?
What was her appearance?
Who had painted her picture for the king to see, before he married her?
Was the picture like her?
Was the king, at that time, attached to another person?
How did he get rid of his present wife, Anne of Cleves?
How many *Sacraments* do Papists acknowledge?
But how many do we Protestants say that "Christ ordained in his Church?"
Did king Henry pretend to be skilled in explaining religious matters?
Did he write a book on the subject of the Sacraments?
Did he take the Popish or the Protestant side in this question?
Did the king's book please the pope?
What title did the pope then confer on the king?

Have the kings of England kept that title ever since?
Did the king marry another wife?
What was her name?
What became of Catherine Howard?
After the execution of Catherine Howard, did Henry marry another wife?
What was her name?
Was she a good queen?
Did Catherine Parr outlive the king?
In what year did this king die?

LETTER XXI.

MY DEAR BOY,

I TOLD you that Henry the Eighth left behind him two daughters and a son. The daughters were Mary and Elizabeth, and they both afterwards became queens; but the son reigned before either of his sisters. This son was Edward the Sixth. He was no more than nine years old when his father died, and he only lived till he was sixteen. He was a prince of excellent qualities, seeming to find all his pleasure in the pursuit of what was good. He was a good scholar; and, what was much better still, he studied to cultivate

a religious spirit in himself, and to encourage it in others. He was particularly anxious to promote the great cause of the Reformation, and to get rid of those errors which the Roman Catholics had grafted on the religion of the Bible; and, during his reign, the superstitious practices of the Church of Rome were almost wholly laid aside. The nation was glad to receive this change, and rejoiced to see the king so earnest in his support of the truth. The people now were encouraged to think for themselves, and were able to judge what was the true doctrine of the Scripture; for the Bible was translated into the English language, and they could now read it themselves; and this led them to see, that many of the ceremonies, which were taught by the Romish Church to be necessary, had no foundation at all in Scripture, and that they ought, therefore, not to be continued. There were, besides, many learned and enlightened bishops, who strove earnestly to promote the Protestant religion. You have heard of archbishop Cranmer, and bishops Ridley and Latimer, who, with other good men, took great pains to make known the Gospel of Christ, and to bring the people to the knowledge and love of

the truth. The young king took great pleasure in hearing these good men preach, and in reading the books which they wrote, for he wished to know the doctrines of the Gospel, and the duties which belonged to his station; and he was anxious that his subjects should learn the same things. We have reason to be thankful, even at this day, that it pleased the Almighty to graft in the heart of this young prince the love of his name. The mercy has come down to ourselves, —we are ourselves partakers of it,—the vain ceremonies of popery are laid aside by us. But we have all need to examine ourselves, to see whether we really, from our hearts, embrace the religion which we profess, and whether we are really anxious to live according to those Divine instructions, which it is our happiness and our great privilege to have now within our reach. The great object of the Reformation was to get rid of those abuses which had been introduced into the Church. There are, no doubt, good and excellent men among the Papists; and such persons, being naturally attached to the religion in which they have been educated, are inclined to defend those practices in the Romish Church

which we condemn; they tell us that these practices either have their foundation in Scripture, or that they were introduced for some good purpose. Whatever might have been the original intention of the Roman Catholic ceremonies, that religion had certainly introduced many practices among the people which we cannot at all consider to be scriptural, and many which lead to very mistaken notions of the religion of Christ. They had their churches filled with images, and pictures of saints, and of the Virgin Mary: and to these the people would kneel down, and offer a sort of worship, which we consider to belong only to the Supreme Being Himself. Then they thought, that, by inflicting punishment on themselves, and undergoing severe mortifications, they could atone for their past sins; and this was an opinion which would naturally lead them to trust to their own penances for the forgiveness of sin, and thus draw their thoughts from the only true atonement made for sin—the sacrifice of Christ. On the merits of our blessed Saviour we are to depend for the pardon of our sins;—and, whilst we receive this our atonement for our past sins, we are to make it our great desire and endeavour,

for the time to come, to forsake sin:—for, unless this be our aim, we are not living in a state of preparation for that kingdom which Christ hath purchased for us. The Gospel of Christ teaches us, that we are to cultivate a spirit of holiness, and of obedience to the will of God, and shows us, that from Him we are to derive our help, to enable us thus to live to his service.

How thankful, then, ought we to be, that, in this country, the Protestant religion is established, which enables us to search the Scriptures, and thus puts us in possession of those important truths which concern our everlasting happiness! And how anxiously ought we to endeavour to live according to the teaching of those Scriptures, which are now within the reach of us all!

When king Henry the Eighth died, his son Edward was too young to govern the nation; and the business of the state was committed to the management of executors and guardians. At the head of these was the duke of Somerset, the king's uncle, who was called the *Protector*. This nobleman was an earnest supporter of the Reformation; and his exertions were of great service to the cause. It flourished in a wonderful manner,

and was favoured by nearly all the nation, although there were some persons who still adhered to the ancient opinions, and tried to check the progress of the reformed religion. Some disturbances were excited by these, and some blood unhappily was shed. Two bishops, Gardiner and Bonner, of whom we shall hear more by and by, still clung to the Romish faith, and for their opposition they were sent to the Tower. We cannot help lamenting when we see that not only Papists, but Protestants also, should have recourse to violence, for the sake of propagating their opinions. The Papists, we know, were dreadfully cruel towards those who differed from them. *We* ought to show a better spirit. So good a cause does not require to be supported by oppression and force. This king's short reign, though so happy for the nation, was one of much grief and trouble to himself. You recollect that he had two sisters, Mary and Elizabeth; and, in case of the king's death, the crown would naturally belong to the eldest of these sisters. But it was said that the late king had set them both aside by his will, declaring that they were not born in lawful wedlock, as he acknowledged neither of their mothers to have

been his lawful wife. This was exactly in accordance with the tyrannical spirit of Henry the Eighth. If these daughters had really been illegitimate, the next heir to the throne would have been the queen of Scotland, for she was the grand-daughter of a sister of Henry the Eighth. There was, however, another lady, called Jane Grey, an excellent lady, who was related to the king, but not near enough to give her any claim to the crown.

This good lady Jane, indeed, never wished to put in any such claim; but there happened to be a proud ambitious nobleman, the duke of Northumberland, who had contrived that his son, lord Guilford Dudley, should marry lady Jane: and then he entered into a scheme to get this lady to be acknowledged the heir to the throne; and he even prevailed on the young king to declare that lady Jane should be his successor.

I ought to tell you that this young king had a very delicate constitution; and his health was now in a very bad state, and he began to show strong symptoms of decline: and this was probably the reason why the duke of Northumberland was so desirous of having lady Jane at once declared heir

to the throne. The king's illness increased; and his end seems to have been hastened by bad management. The duke of Northumberland was constantly about him: he sent away the regular physician, and had the king entrusted to the care of an ignorant old woman, who declared that she could cure him. Whether this was a contrivance of Northumberland to get rid of the king, as some historians say, I will not pretend to determine. From the time, however, that the old woman was introduced, the king continued to grow worse. This indeed was likely enough to be the case, without our being obliged to believe the severe accusation against the duke. The king died in the year 1553, at Greenwich—where there was then a royal palace—in the sixteenth year of his age, and the seventh of his reign. His loss was lamented by all the good people in the kingdom; for so early a love of all that was excellent did, indeed, give the best hopes of a happy and prosperous reign. I am, &c.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Henry VIII. die?
How many children did he leave?

What were their names?

Which of these reigned first?

How old was Edward VI. when he began to reign?

What was his character?

Did he encourage the Reformation?

What does the Reformation here mean?

What three bishops are particularly mentioned as great encouragers of the Reformation?

Did the young king take great pleasure in hearing these good men preach?

In the Roman Catholic times, had the people the Bible in their own language?

Did not the ignorance of Scripture lead to many superstitious practices?

Will making long prayers, and kneeling before the statues of the Virgin Mary and of Saints,—or will any pain or penances that we can inflict on ourselves, take away the guilt of our sins?

Who is it alone that can atone for our sins?

But may we go on in the practice of sin, because Christ has atoned for our past offences?

Are you aware, then, that it is the duty of one who believes in Christ, to forsake sin, and to be desirous of serving God; or, as the Scripture expresses it, to be "zealous of good works!"

Ought we Protestants, then, who can read the Scriptures, to be very anxious to believe what they teach us, and to live according to their directions?

As the king was very young, was it not necessary that he

should have guardians to manage the affairs of the nation?

Who was at the head of these?

What was he called?

Did *Protector* Somerset favour the Reformation?

And did the cause of the Reformation flourish during this young king's reign?

What two bishops, in particular, still clung to the Roman Catholic cause?

Were they sent to the Tower?

Who was mentioned, by some persons, as the right person to reign, in case of the king's death?

Who encouraged lady Jane Grey to claim the crown?

What was now the state of the king's health?

In what year did the king die?

How old was he?

How long had he reigned?

LETTER XXII.

MY DEAR BOY,

WHOEVER reads the history of Edward the Sixth, must be grieved to think that he lived so short a time; and it is still more melancholy to find, that his successor was a most cruel and violent persecutor of the Protestants. This was queen Mary, his eldest sister, commonly known by the name

of Bloody Mary. We saw how much good was done in the reign of king Edward; but we shall now see that Mary undid it all. She was a bigoted Papist, and she set herself against all the good and pious men who had been the means of bringing about the Reformation; and she encouraged the violent and cruel people who were the enemies of the Protestants, and who were desirous of bringing the nation back again to all their old bad customs and errors. There were two bishops, Bonner, bishop of London, and Gardiner, bishop of Winchester, both Papists, and great enemies to the Reformation. I think I told you before, that these bishops had been sent to the Tower. Queen Mary set them at liberty, and they lent all the aid they could to assist her in persecuting the Protestants. Some of the best and most pious men in the nation were burnt during these cruel persecutions; five bishops, twenty other clergy, and some hundreds of people besides: and all this because they would not agree to support a religion, which, in their consciences, they believed to be full of error. You have heard of those truly pious and worthy men, bishops Ridley and Latimer. These two aged

servants of God were put to death at the same time and place[1]. When Ridley was brought to the stake to be burned, he found that his old friend Latimer was there before him. They helped to comfort one another in this trying hour; and they were wonderfully supported from above, and enabled to undergo, in the cause of truth, all the torments which their enemies could inflict: and they died, encouraging one another, and offering up their prayers and praises to God. These were truly devout and excellent men, and learned in the Scriptures; and they had done much, by their writings, to spread the knowledge of the Gospel, and to further the work of the Reformation.

Soon after this, that good and learned man, archbishop Cranmer, was burned to death. He once, in an evil hour, had been tempted, by the love of life, to sign a paper, declaring that he was no friend to the Reformation. But, if a good man, at any time, by the power of temptation, does fall into a sin, his conscience will not allow him to be happy: and so it was with Cranmer; for, after signing this paper, he could no longer be at peace with himself; and he then spoke his real senti-

[1] At Oxford.

ments, and declared himself the friend of the Protestant religion. For this he was brought to the stake; and he seemed to glory in being called to suffer in so righteous a cause. As soon as the fire was kindled around him, he thrust his right hand into the midst of the flames, and there held it till it was consumed; it was *that* hand which had signed the paper which so tormented him, and he was, therefore, determined that *that* hand should be the first to suffer; and, in the midst of his torments, he frequently cried out, "That unworthy hand!"

Besides these persecutions for the sake of religion, I should have told you that, at the beginning of her reign, queen Mary caused lady Jane Grey, and her husband, lord Guilford Dudley, to be put to death, because their ambitious friends had persuaded them that this lady was heir to the throne, and because she did not refuse the offer as firmly as she ought to have done. This cruel execution raised the pity and compassion of all ranks and descriptions of people; for neither lady Jane nor her husband had any wish to disturb the queen in her government, but had been only brought forward by the ambition of their

relations. Lady Jane and her husband were very young, and handsome, and amiable; but Mary had no compassion on them, and they were both beheaded at the Tower on the same day. Lord Guilford was the first that suffered; and, whilst lady Jane was going to the place of execution, she met the officers of the Tower carrying the headless body of her husband streaming with blood. She looked at the body for some time, and then, sighing, bade her conductors to lead her on. She behaved, at her execution, with the greatest firmness, submitting with a serene countenance to the stroke of the executioner.

Queen Mary was married to Philip the Second, king of Spain, who was himself a stern Catholic, and encouraged her in her opposition to the Reformation. We cannot suppose, that, in the midst of these dreadful scenes, the queen herself could be happy. No, her dark and cruel disposition was torment enough to her; and the miseries which she caused could give no feeling to her mind but that of gloomy wretchedness.

The temporal affairs of the kingdom, too, were in a wretched state. Calais, which had been in possession of the English ever since the reign of

Edward the Third, was now taken from us by the Frencl.; and such was the wretchedness of the queen upon this loss, that she was heard to say that, when she was dead, "the name of Calais would be written on her heart." It seems to me, that there were *other* things which might have pressed upon her mind, and tormented her more than *this*.

All things at this time seemed to combine to harass and disturb the queen. Her husband had no affection for her; the people murmured against her; the Protestant religion increased in spite of all her cruelties, and she was unsuccessful in all her warlike attempts; all these things, together, worked upon her body as well as her mind, and brought on a consumption. Her dark and cruel temper gave strength to her disease, and threw her into a lingering fever, and of this she died in the forty-third year of her age, after a miserable reign of about five years. This happened in the year 1558.

Now, though most of the accounts which we find in history relate to the affairs of kings and queens, yet they read us a lesson which may be useful to persons in *any* condition of life: may

God grant that we may profit by it! And, when we know the misery and wretchedness which is brought on by a want of regard to the religion of the Gospel; and when we see what cruelty of disposition will often possess the heart, if it be not softened by the gracious influences of true religion, it becomes us, indeed, to make it our prayer and our study, to receive, in humble faith, the pure doctrines of Christ's religion, to seek for Divine grace, that we may be guided by its rules, and to labour to convey to others the knowledge of the Holy Scriptures, which will lead them to all truth, and all duty, and all happiness *here*, and show them the way to everlasting salvation in the *world to come*. And, when we see how the faithful followers of Christ are supported in the midst of the most severe trials and the most acute suffering, what a lesson is this for us to embrace that faith which gives its followers such constancy in the hour of trial! May we always be thankful for the knowledge of the truth, and may we ever make it our desire and endeavour to follow its heavenly guidance!

I am your affectionate father, &c.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Edward the Sixth die?

Who reigned after him?

What relation was queen Mary to Edward the Sixth?

What was her character and disposition?

Did Mary encourage the Protestant religion, or not?

What two bishops assisted her in persecuting the Protestants?

Were many persons put to death in Mary's reign for professing the Protestant religion?

What two bishops are particularly mentioned as having been burnt to death for the sake of the Protestant religion?

Had Ridley and Latimer exerted themselves greatly, by preaching and writing, to spread the Protestant religion?

What other bishop soon afterward suffered death in the same cause?

Had archbishop Cranmer ever failed in showing a firmness of resolution in support of the Protestant cause?

Had he signed a declaration in which he showed a want of courage in support of his opinion?

How did he feel, after he had signed this?

How did he act afterwards?

Why did he thrust his right hand into the fire, and what did he say on doing so?

Was a claim to the crown set up in favour of any other person, against queen Mary?

Who was this person?

What became of lady Jane Grey?

Who was her husband, and what became of *him*?

Was queen Mary married?
Who was her husband?
Did the temporal affairs of the nation go on well, during Mary's reign?
What town in France, belonging to the English, was lost during this reign?
How did the queen bear this loss, and what did she say?
What was the disposition of her husband?
What religion did he profess?
How did he behave to the queen?
Was she happy?
In what year did she die?
How long had she reigned?

LETTER XXIII.

MY DEAR BOY,

After the death of queen Mary, her sister Elizabeth became queen. The people had suffered so much under the cruel Mary, that they received Elizabeth with real delight. Elizabeth was a very thoughtful and considerate person, and she saw plainly, that her sister Mary's notions about religion had been entirely wrong; and she, therefore, determined to encourage the Protestant religion, which she well understood, and which she knew

to be right. Through her means, therefore, the Roman Catholic religion was laid aside, and the Protestant religion established in its place, nearly in the same manner as we have it at present.

Queen Elizabeth soon experienced, that the highest station in this life is not without its troubles. There were many persons in England who still favoured the Roman Catholic religion, and these were desirous of getting rid of Elizabeth, and of putting Mary, queen of Scots, upon the English throne. This Mary was a near relation of Elizabeth, and was in truth the rightful heiress[1] to the throne, in case Elizabeth should not marry, and have children. Mary was a Catholic, and she listened to the proposals of those who were plotting against Elizabeth, and she became engaged in their conspiracies. A battle was fought, which went wholly against Mary. She surrendered herself up to Elizabeth, who ordered her to be secured, that she might be prevented from engaging in any more schemes to disturb the kingdom. It appears, however, that, even during her confinement, she secretly encouraged those who

[1] Margaret, sister of Henry VIII., married James IV of Scotland; their son, James V., was the father of Mary.

were conspiring against the queen. She was brought to her trial, and was condemned. We are told that Elizabeth was very unwilling to sign the death-warrant, and that the persons around her took great pains to persuade her to do it, knowing that they should find no favour if Mary should ever become queen. They are said to have alarmed the queen with rumours of plots and conspiracies, so that she one day signed the warrant, and sent it to the chancellor to have the seal put upon it, intending to keep it by her, and not to have it executed unless Mary should attempt to escape from Fotheringay castle[1], where she was then confined. Her secretary is said to have gone to the chancellor and to have got the warrant sealed, and, instead of bringing it back to the queen, to have laid it before the council, who resolved that it should be immediately put in execution. It was accordingly directed to four noblemen, who immediately set out for Fotheringay castle, accompanied by two executioners. There is much reason, however, to doubt the truth of Elizabeth's unwillingness to get rid of Mary, as well as the whole story about Davison the secretary, and the death-warrant.

[1] In Northamptonshire.

As soon as they arrived, they ordered Mary to prepare for death by eight o'clock the next morning. She was ready at the appointed time, dressed in a rich habit of silk and velvet, with a long veil on her head, and a crucifix[1] in her hand. The scaffold was covered with black. The two executioners kneeled down, and asked her to forgive them. She said she forgave them, and all who were concerned in her death. She declared that she was innocent; she repeated a psalm, and some pious expressions; and her head was then severed from her body by two strokes of the executioner. Whatever were the faults of Mary, we cannot help grieving for her tragical end, especially when we think that it was ordered by a near relation, a female, and a queen.

Soon after this, Elizabeth was exposed to further troubles. Philip, king of Spain, was a bigoted Catholic, and he could not bear to see the Protestant religion flourishing in England. Accordingly, he fitted out a vast fleet of ships, and so large an army, that he thought nothing could withstand him. English people, however, are, you

[1] A little image of our Saviour on the Cross, much used by Roman Catholics.

know, not fond of being invaded; and, therefore, instead of being frightened at the king of Spain's preparations, they prepared to oppose him with all the power they could collect. The queen herself went down to Tilbury Fort, and, mounted on horseback, rode amongst her soldiers and sailors, and encouraged them to oppose the invaders manfully, declaring, that, though she was a woman, she would fight, like a man, for her country, before an inch of it should fall into the hands of the king of Spain. The Spaniards had such confidence in their immense fleet, that they called it the *Invincible Armada*. However, the English soon showed them that their fleet was not *invincible*, for, as it came up the English channel, with its ships, in size and number sufficient to alarm anybody but British sailors, our little fleet came out of Plymouth harbour, and harassed them and drove them in all directions, so that very few of them ever returned home again to tell the tale.

If we had been then conquered by the Spaniards, the Roman Catholic religion would probably have been again restored in England. But a good Providence protected us, and seemed to fight for us: for the Spanish fleet was dreadfully harassed

by the winds and storms as well as by the attacks of the English fleet. Queen Elizabeth was so thankful for this providential deliverance, that she went in state to St. Paul's Church, to return thanks to the Almighty for the great blessing conferred upon the nation. You have perhaps seen some old pictures of this great fight. In the House of Lords, the defeat of the Spanish Armada is worked in old tapestry on the walls [1]; and there you see the noble admirals and captains of the English fleet, who had so boldly fought in defence of their country.

Queen Elizabeth showed her great wisdom by choosing upright and good ministers; and, by their advice, and her own good sense besides, the affairs of the nation were managed properly. But there were some things in which this queen seemed to show a weakness which was in contradiction to the rest of her character; she had always some persons about her who seemed to be chosen for nothing but their handsome appearance, and their taste for gaudy show and splendour. Lord Leicester was one of these;

[1] The houses of Parliament have been since burned down.

and he seemed to have nothing to recommend him but his fine person, and his splendid houses, and his rich furniture. The queen was fond of going about the country, and paying visits to the houses of different noblemen and rich gentlemen. We read that lord Leicester entertained her majesty for many days at his princely mansion at Kenilworth, in Warwickshire; which is now nothing but a fine old ruin, just enough to show what it has been. During this visit, all sorts of fine sights were exhibited, and games, and masquerades, and every kind of show that the people of that age delighted in. There were all sorts of strange wild figures dressed up: and men and women were made to imitate the strange appearances of heathen gods; and there were sham fights, and tilting, and all sorts of sports; and the queen seemed to take as much delight in those things as any of the people that surrounded her. This sort of entertainments brought my lord Leicester into great favour; but sometimes the queen's mind would be all changed, and the favourite would be in disgrace; and this kind of humour she often showed to her courtiers, according to the change of her temper and fancy: thus

she sometimes showed herself to be as little-minded as other people; though, generally speaking, we have reason to look upon Elizabeth as a great and wise queen.

There was the earl of Essex, too, who was, sometime afterwards, in great favour with the queen. But he was too proud and haughty to bear with all the changes in her temper; and, when she refused him any of his requests, he would put himself into a violent rage; and once he even raised an army in rebellion against her. He was however overpowered, and seized, and sent to the Tower, and tried for his life. He was found guilty, and was condemned to be beheaded:—but he, all along, thought he should escape, never believing that the queen would sign the warrant for his execution. The story told is, that he had a ring which the queen had once given him when he was high in her favour: and she had told him, that, whenever he was in trouble, if he would but send her that ring, he should be delivered. Accordingly, when he was condemned to be beheaded, he gave the ring to the countess of Nottingham, beseeching her to deliver it safely into the queen's hands. Essex

every moment expected to receive an answer that his life was to be spared. But the deceitful countess never gave the ring to the queen. Her husband was an enemy to Essex; and, to please him, she agreed to this piece of cruel wickedness. The queen wondered, all the time, why Essex did not send the ring; and she was angry to think that he should be too proud and haughty to ask her forgiveness. It is said, that Elizabeth was all the while dreadfully disturbed and distressed in her mind, and that it was very long before she could bring herself to sign the warrant for the execution of the earl. At length, however, she did sign it—and she was never seen to enjoy a happy day afterwards. It is said, that when the countess of Nottingham was on her death-bed, her conscience stung her for her wicked conduct towards the earl of Essex; she begged that the queen would come to her, and she then told her the whole truth about the ring: and they say, that the queen was so angry that she even shook the countess on her very death-bed. The queen, soon after this, sunk into a gloomy and melancholy state; and she died, in the seventieth year of her age, and the forty-fifth of her reign.

If you cannot very much admire the personal character of Elizabeth, yet her public conduct as a queen was dictated by a strong desire to do good to the nation. Manufactures and commerce greatly increased during her reign: and every encouragement was given to good and learned men; so that knowledge also increased greatly throughout the kingdom: and it seems a most happy and providential thing, that, when there was a desire to study the Scriptures and to gain religious instruction, there should be so many great and enlightened scholars who were able to explain all these things, and to lay them, in our own language, before the people.

But I shall say no more at present, excepting to remind you, that, whilst you are reading history, you must be careful to remember the *dates*. Queen Elizabeth died in the year 1603.

I am your affectionate father, &c.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did queen Mary of England die?
Who became queen after her?
What relation was queen Elizabeth to queen Mary?

What religion was established in England by Elizabeth?

What person laid claim to be considered heiress to the throne of England?

Did Mary, queen of Scots, enter into any conspiracies against Elizabeth?

What religion did Mary, the queen of Scotland, profess?

Was any battle fought between Elizabeth's forces and Mary's?

Which succeeded?

Did Mary surrender herself to the queen of England?

Was she kept in confinement?

Where?

What became of the queen of Scotland?

From what quarter was an invasion planned against England?

What religion did the Spaniards profess?

What did the Spaniards call their great fleet which was fitted out to invade England?

What became of the Spanish Armada?

How did queen Elizabeth show her gratitude to Providence for the dispersion of the Spanish fleet?

What sort of people did queen Elizabeth choose for her ministers?

What sort of people did she like to have about her court?

Who was lord Leicester?

Is there any account of a great entertainment, which Leicester gave to the queen?

Where was this?

Who was the earl of Essex?

What was the end of Essex?

Do you remember the story of the countess of Nottingham and the ring?
Did lady Nottingham ever confess the truth about the ring?
How did the queen receive this confession?
What was the general character of queen Elizabeth?
Had the Reformation the effect of improving the state of the country?
In what year did queen Elizabeth die?

LETTER XXIV.

MY DEAR BOY,

As we have seen that queen Elizabeth was never married, and consequently left no heirs, you will perhaps wonder who is to be the next king. We must, therefore, look back a little into our history to find the right heir to the throne. We must go back as far as Elizabeth's grandfather, Henry the VIIth. This king's daughter Margaret married the king of Scotland, James the IVth; and their direct descendant, James the VIth of Scotland, was consequently the right heir to the crown of England too. Accordingly he was crowned under the title of James the First of England; and thus the crowns of England and Scotland became united under the same king. Though James was

undoubtedly the rightful king of England, it was not long before a number of persons entered into a conspiracy to dethrone him. This was set on foot by lord Grey, lord Cobham, and sir Walter Raleigh, who were all condemned to die. Lords Cobham and Grey were, however, pardoned: but, that they might feel some punishment for their crime, they were made to suffer all the terrors of death, for their pardon did not come till they had actually laid their heads on the block, expecting that in a moment's time they would be cut off. Sir Walter Raleigh was reprieved, but was still confined in prison, where he remained many years. He was, at length, as we shall see by and by, cruelly and unfairly executed.

As James the First was the son of Mary, queen of Scots, many of the Papists expected that he would encourage popery; and they were, therefore, grievously disappointed when they found, that though he was too wise to oppress and persecute them, he still was a true and faithful friend to the Protestant cause. On this account, they contrived a plot to destroy him and his family, and both houses of Parliament together. This is the horrid "Gunpowder Plot," that you

have so often heard of. The conspirators hired a house adjoining to that where Parliament met, from which they could get into the cellar under the Parliament-house. Into this cellar they conveyed thirty-six barrels of gunpowder, and these they covered with coals and fagots, so that whoever saw the cellar could perceive nothing particular in the appearance of it, as it had been generally used to keep coals in. At the opening of the Parliament, the king, queen, and prince Henry their eldest son, were expected to be present, and the conspirators seemed to think, that nothing was likely to happen to check their wicked design[1].

However, Providence mercifully prevented this dreadful destruction. One of those concerned in the plot was Sir Henry Percy; and he was very desirous of saving the life of lord Monteagle, who was his intimate friend. About ten days before the meeting of Parliament, this nobleman received a letter without any name to it, which was brought by a person who made his escape the moment he had delivered it. The following strange words were in the letter:—"My lord,

[1] In the year 1605.

stay away from this Parliament, for God and man have concurred to punish the wickedness of the times. And think not slightly of this advertisement, but retire, yourself, into your country, where you may expect the event in safety. For, though there be no appearance of any stir, yet I say they will receive a terrible blow this Parliament, and yet they shall not see who hurts them. This counsel is not to be contemned; because it may do you good and can do you no harm. For the danger is past as soon as you have burned this letter."

This mysterious letter greatly puzzled lord Monteagle, and he at first thought that it was meant only to frighten him, and laugh at him. He, however, judged it safest to carry the letter to lord Salisbury, who was then secretary of state. Lord Salisbury, too, was inclined to think the letter not much worth attending to: yet he considered it the safest course to lay it before the king in council. None of the council knew what to make of it; and it is said, that the king was the first person who found out the meaning of this strange letter. He thought he saw in it something of a plot to produce a great destruction by means of gunpowder; and upon this, they

set about examining the cellars and vaults below both houses of Parliament. Here they found large heaps of fagots under the House of Lords, and they found a strange-looking man, dressed in a cloak and boots, and with a dark lantern in his hand. This was Guy Fawkes, who was laying the train and getting every thing ready for the dreadful explosion, which was planned for the next day. This wretched man did not seem to be in the least sorry for what he was doing; but he told the officers who took him, that he should have been glad to have blown them all up, and himself too. His spirit, however, was a little humbled when he was threatened to be tortured to make him confess all he knew of the plot; and he then made a full discovery of all his accomplices. When the dreadful plot was thus discovered, the principal conspirators prepared for resisting the authority that was to seize and punish them. They accordingly shut themselves up in a house in Warwickshire, determined to defend it to the last. But a dreadful accident happened to them, and just such a one as they had themselves contrived for others. A spark of fire fell amongst some gunpowder which was laid to dry; it blew

up, and made terrible destruction among the conspirators. Some of them endeavoured to rush out of the gate, but were soon cut to pieces by the soldiers who surrounded the house. Some few escaped the slaughter, but were afterwards executed; and some experienced the king's mercy.

I have told you, that sir Walter Raleigh was kept in prison, having been condemned for a supposed conspiracy against the king. There he remained for thirteen years. He, at length, got leave to go on an expedition to America, having said that he had discovered a rich gold-mine there. They found no gold, however; but Raleigh attacked the Spaniards who were settled there; and this gave offence to the king of Spain; and king James declared that Raleigh had his orders to avoid all disputes with the Spaniards: and then, to please the king of Spain, he signed the warrant for his execution, not for his present offence, but for his former conspiracy. This seems very hard upon Raleigh; he, however, suffered with the greatest calmness and resignation: he took hold of the axe, and he felt the edge of it, saying, that "it was a sharp but a sure remedy for all sufferings in this world;" he then made a calm address

to the people, and laid his head on the block, without the least appearance of terror.

There were several circumstances, too long for me to mention, which prevented king James from having an easy or a happy reign. He was very fond too of trying how far he might carry his own authority, without consulting the Lords or the Commons; and this made him many enemies. He had, besides, many expensive friends and favourites about him, and he was constantly applying for money to supply their extravagant wants. In short, the people were full of dissatisfaction; and their discontents gave the king great trouble; they broke out still more violently, as we shall see, in the reign of his son, Charles the First.

The discontents of the people, and the bad success of the king in his war against the emperor of Germany, might perhaps have had some effect on his constitution; but, however this might be, he was seized with a tertian ague. His courtiers, thinking to please him, told him of a foolish saying, that "an ague was health for a king:" but the king knew better, and said that the proverb was meant for a *young* king. After some fits, he became extremely weak; and he expired in the

year 1625, after a reign, over England, of twenty-two years. He was about sixty years of age.

I am, &c.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did queen Elizabeth die?

Was she ever married?

As therefore she could leave no direct heirs behind her, who was the proper person to succeed to the throne?

Can you tell me how it was that James the Sixth of Scotland was[1] heir to the crown of England?

Was any conspiracy formed for the purpose of setting aside king James?

Who was at the head of this conspiracy?

What became of lord Grey, lord Cobham, and sir Walter Raleigh?

Was James the First a Papist or a Protestant?

What is the story of the Gunpowder Plot?

How was this plot discovered?

How did lord Monteagle act when he received a private letter from one of the conspirators?

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[1] James the Sixth of Scotland was son to Mary queen of Scots, who was daughter to James the Fifth, who was son to Margaret (the wife of James the Fourth), which Margaret was daughter to Henry the Seventh of England.

Who was the first person to discover that destruction by gunpowder was meditated?
What steps were taken on the king's suggesting his suspicions?
What discovery was made when the cellars were searched?
How did Guy Fawkes act when he was seized?
What became of the rest of the conspirators?
What became of sir Walter Raleigh?
Had king James a happy reign?
What was his character?
Of what disease did he die?
How did his flatterers try to persuade him that his illness was not dangerous?
What reply did he make to them?
In what year did he die?
How old was he?
How long had he reigned over England?
In what year was the gunpowder plot?

LETTER XXV.

MY DEAR BOY,

I TOLD you, in my last letter, that, during the reign of James the First, there was great dissatisfaction and discontent among the people. The king had given great offence by carrying his prerogative too far, and by thus neglecting to

consider the wishes of the people, and to give them their constitutional privileges. This was a very great disadvantage to his son, Charles the First, when he came to the throne. This king was of a mild and gentle disposition, and would have been glad to have been at peace with all men: but yet, such were the times in which he lived, that he was in constant trouble and distress. When his father died, the nation was engaged in a war with the emperor of Germany; and the expense of this war obliged king Charles to apply to the parliament for money. They would not grant him so much as he required, and he was obliged to try other methods, and to endeavour to raise supplies *without* the aid of parliament: and this caused great murmurings throughout the nation. War was made against the French too; but this was unsuccessful, and increased the general discontent. There was soon an open quarrel between the king and the parliament. Several members of the House of Commons were accused of sedition, and committed to prison; and many were, besides being imprisoned, made to pay large fines. This increased the opposition to the king, and excited great compassion for the sufferers.

Another circumstance gave great distress to the king. There was a duke of Buckingham, who was a great favourite of the king; and his regard for this nobleman brought him many enemies among the people. This duke of Buckingham was at Portsmouth for the purpose of hurrying on an expedition against France. Whilst he was in a room surrounded by his officers, and was talking to one of them, a man, named Felton, struck him in the breast with a knife. The duke had only time to say, "The villain has killed me!" and he then instantly fell down dead. No one saw the person who gave the blow, but a hat was soon picked up, which it was immediately supposed belonged to the murderer. Whilst they were considering whose hat this could be, a man without a hat was seen very quietly walking before the door, and was heard to say, "I am he!" He seemed to glory in his crime; and, to the last moment, he never would confess that he had done any thing wrong in committing this murder.

I cannot attempt to describe to you all the troubles of this reign; the history of this rebellion takes up whole volumes. The parliament took up arms against the king, and there were many battles

between the king's army and theirs. It is dreadful to think of the miseries and slaughter which filled the kingdom, and to reflect, that these were all among fellow-countrymen, who ought to live like friends and brothers, instead of quarrelling, and killing one another.

During these wars, Oliver Cromwell came forward as an officer in the parliamentary army, and he beat the king's army at the battle of Marston-moor[1]. But it was at the battle of Naseby, in Northamptonshire, that the king suffered such a loss as he was never able to recover. He was in this battle in person, but was obliged to retreat; and Cromwell and his friends gained a complete victory. King Charles fled to Oxford, where he had always found steady and loyal supporters; but the place was not strong enough to protect him, and he would soon have fallen into the hands of the parliamentary forces, commanded by Fairfax, had he not resolved to put himself under the protection of the Scotch army, where he was in hopes that he should find friends. He was, however, deceived. The parliament offered a large sum of

[1] Near York.

money to the Scots, and they gave up their king. The Scotch army returned home loaded with the riches which they had earned by this treacherous and disgraceful action.

Oliver Cromwell may now be considered as the chief man in this great rebellion. He was the son of a gentleman in Huntingdonshire; his fortune was but small, and there seemed nothing in his character which could give any reason to expect that he should ever become so important a man. He was rough in his person, very slovenly in his dress, and had a stammering and awkward manner of expressing himself. By perseverance, however, he got to be the leader in this rebellion, and to carry every thing his own way. The king, after being harassed and imprisoned, and moved from one place to another, was now a prisoner in Hampton-court. After this, he was confined in Carisbrook-castle, in the Isle of Wight; then he was conveyed to Hurst-castle, in Hampshire: he was afterwards brought to Windsor, and then to London. Many of his subjects who saw him could not help grieving to perceive his altered appearance: he looked pale and sickly; his hair had become grey with sorrow; he had suffered his

beard to grow, and his apparel showed all the marks of poverty and distress. Nobody could see him without feeling for his sufferings.

He was soon brought to trial: and, when he was produced before the judges, he sat down with all the dignity of a king, without moving his hat, or showing, by any such sign, that he acknowledged their power to try him. The charge against him was then read, and he was accused of being the cause of all the blood shed since the beginning of the rebellion. At this the king could not help showing by his looks how false and unjust he considered this accusation. He was four times brought before this assembly of the commons, but never would allow that it was a fair court of justice, or that it had any right to try him. They were, however, determined to bring him to execution; and on the fourth day, they accordingly pronounced sentence against him. When he returned to Whitehall, he begged to be allowed to see his children, and to have the bishop of London (Dr. Juxon) to assist him in his prayers. He was allowed three days to prepare for execution. All the members of his family then in England, were the princess Elizabeth, and the duke

of Gloucester, a child of about three years of age. He gave the princess some pious and good advice; and then he took his little son in his arms, and said, "My child, they will cut off thy father's head, and will, perhaps, make thee a king; but remember, thou must not be a king as long as thy brothers Charles and James are alive. They will cut off their heads when they can take them: and they will cut off thy head at last, and, therefore, I charge thee do not be made a king by them." The child, bursting into tears, replied, "I will be torn in pieces first."

It is said that the king's mind was so firm, that he slept as well as usual every night between the sentence and the execution, though the noise of the workmen who were raising the scaffold was continually within reach of his ears.

It was on the 30th of January that the bloody sentence was put in execution. The scaffold was so contrived that it was on a level with one of the windows at Whitehall: it was covered with black, and upon it were the block and the axe, and two executioners in masks. The king then came forth, attended by his faithful friend and servant, bishop Juxon.

Whilst he was preparing himself for the block, the good bishop said to him, "There is, sir, but one stage more, which, though turbulent and troublesome, is yet a very short one. It will carry you a great way. It will carry you from earth to heaven; and there you shall find, to your great joy, the prize to which you hasten—a crown of glory." "I go," replied the king, "from a corruptible to an incorruptible crown, where no disturbance can have place." "You exchange," replied the bishop, "a temporal for an eternal crown; a good exchange!" Then the king laid his neck on the block, and one of the executioners severed his head from his body at one blow: and the other, holding it up, exclaimed, "This is the head of a traitor." The people who saw this sad sight, showed the most mournful signs of grief and sorrow, and seemed to blame themselves for being patient spectators of so horrible a deed.

Charles was executed in the year 1649, in the 49th year of his age, and the 24th of his reign. "He was of a middling stature, robust, and well proportioned. His countenance was pleasing, but melancholy, and this mournful cast was probably

brought on by the troubles and afflictions which he had so long endured."

Believe me your affectionate father.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did king James the First die?
Who came after him?
What was the disposition of Charles the First?
Was the nation at war, or at peace, when James the First died?
Did the parliament readily grant the king supplies for carrying on the war?
Did the king and the parliament quarrel?
What nobleman was, at that time, in great favour with the king?
What became of the duke of Buckingham?
Were there dreadful civil wars soon after that time?
In what battle do we first hear of Oliver Cromwell?
In what battle was the king's army dreadfully beaten?
To what place did the king go, after the battle of Naseby?
In whom did the king hope to find protection?
How did the Scotch army treat him?
Who was Oliver Cromwell?
What was his appearance?
What became of the king?
Was the king brought to trial?

Did the king's children visit him in prison?
Which of them?
What did he say to his son, the duke of Gloucester?
Was the king put to death?
What bishop attended him?
Where was he executed?
How did he behave?
What did bishop Juxon say to him?
How old was king Charles when he was beheaded?
How many years had he reigned?
In what year was this?
In what month?
On what day of the month?

LETTER XXVI.

MY DEAR BOY,

My last letter ended with the melancholy account of the death of Charles the First. Oliver Cromwell, as we have seen, had a principal hand in that bloody deed, pretending to have a great desire to give liberty to the country, and to deliver it from the power of kings. He soon, however, showed how little he cared for the liberty of the

people; for he took upon himself a greater degree of power than any English king had ever exercised—though he was cunning enough to avoid the *name* of a king. He was, therefore, called *Protector*. He was, however, a bold and daring fellow, and had great success in his wars. He had a brave admiral called Blake; and, with his help, he beat both the Dutch and the Spaniards at sea. It was in Cromwell's time, too, that Admirals Penn and Venables took the island of Jamaica in the West Indies, which still belongs to the English, and is considered a place of great importance to us, though the commanders who took it, instead of being thanked for their conquest, were sent prisoners to the Tower, because they did not do all that was expected of them. Cromwell likewise boldly attacked all those who opposed his government, in Ireland, in Scotland, and at home.

But you perhaps wish to know what became of the eldest son of Charles the First all this time, who was, in truth, the real king of England. You may be sure that there were many people who would have been glad to have seen their true king on the throne, instead of submitting to the

power of one who had no right whatever to the kingly power, and who had taken it only by main force and violence. Yes, there were many loyal subjects; but these were so terrified at the power of Cromwell, and the great army which he commanded, that none of them dared come forward in support of their young king. The Scotch, indeed, made an attempt, and they sent for him from Holland, where he was living for the sake of security. They were but badly prepared, however, to resist the forces of Cromwell; a battle was fought, and the Scotch army was soon beaten, and many of them killed, whilst very few men were lost in the army of Cromwell.

Young Charles then formed the bold resolution of marching directly into England, with such of the Scottish army as remained, hoping that he should find many friends to join him in England. In this, however, he was disappointed, for every body seemed struck with terror at the power and the success of Cromwell. Charles got as far as Worcester; but Cromwell had made haste to follow him, with an army of forty thousand men. Here was a terrible battle, and the king's little army was soon completely beaten, and the king

himself, though he fought boldly, was at last obliged to escape for his life.

Cromwell tried every means he could think of, to get the king into his power; and it is quite wonderful how Charles escaped, when he was pursued in all directions, and spies set to watch him, and great rewards offered to any one who should take him. The young prince, however, found friends who were firm and true to him, and who contrived to keep him out of the hands of his enemies, sometimes by hiding him, and sometimes by dressing him in shabby clothes, that he might not be known.

On one occasion, he mounted an oak tree, and actually saw the soldiers, who were searching for him, pass under the very tree where he was concealed. At another time he was concealed in the house of an honest and loyal cottager. Often he slept in a hay-loft. Many times he was in great distress for want of food and sufficient clothing. He performed a long journey on horseback in the dress of a servant, carrying behind him, for the sake of concealment, a lady, Mrs. Lane, the wife of a warm and loyal friend, who himself also kept within sight, that he might assist the king in case

of necessity. Thus, after many narrow escapes, they brought the king to the seaside, near Brighton, where a boat was provided for him:—and in this way he got fairly out of the kingdom, and was landed safely in France.

Cromwell, we may be sure, acquired great applause amongst his friends for his boldness and success in battle; he returned from the battle of Worcester, in great triumph, to London; and he and the Parliament now possessed the whole power of the nation. Cromwell was, however, too ambitious to allow the Parliament to have its share of power; and, on the other hand, the Parliament was jealous of him and the army. But the protector soon showed the Parliament what was his way of settling such affairs. He actually went to the Parliament-house himself, taking with him three hundred soldiers, who were to remain on the outside till he stamped with his foot. There he listened awhile to the debate; but he soon told them that he did not like their way of proceeding, and that they need sit no longer. Then he stamped with his feet, and the armed soldiers appeared. Then he used every sort of abusive language to the members of Parliament. "Get

you gone," said he, "give place to honester men. You are no longer a parliament: I tell you, you are no longer a parliament." He called one of them a "drunkard," another a "glutton," and all the frightful names that he could think of. He pointed to the mace which lay upon the table, and said, "Take away that bauble." Then he turned out all the members, and locked the door, and put the key in his pocket, and returned home to Whitehall.

After this new way of dissolving a Parliament, it was necessary that another should be appointed. But Cromwell was resolved to keep the power in his own hands: and, for this purpose, he got together a Parliament of such poor miserable creatures, as could do nothing towards managing the affairs of the State, so that Cromwell, in fact, did every thing according to his own will and pleasure. One of these fine members of Parliament was called Barebone, a foolish leather-seller; and this strange assembly was called, after him, the Barebone's Parliament. We may be sure that nothing could be done by such a set of people as these; so that there was soon an end of this Parliament; and thus, according to his intention,

Cromwell had every thing his own way. In his wars, as I have already told you, he had great success: but when he proved himself to be such a tyrant, and was for carrying every measure according to his own will, and was content with nothing but absolute power, many of his old friends forsook him, and there were many plots and conspiracies set on foot to take away his life. He was tormented in his mind, too, with the constant fear of being murdered. He wore steel armour under his clothes, and kept pistols in his pockets, and had a miserably gloomy and suspicious countenance. He always travelled in a great hurry, and never without a number of men to guard him. He seldom came back from any place by the same way that he went, and he was constantly changing his bed-chamber, that nobody might know where he slept; he was miserable when he was in company, for he thought every man was his enemy; and he was so full of fears too, that he hardly knew how to be alone.

His end, however, was approaching. He was seized with a tertian ague, which soon carried him off; and he died in the year 1658, in the 59th year of his age. He had been in possession

of the government about ten years. He had appointed his son Richard Cromwell to succeed him; and Richard was accordingly proclaimed protector. He was not, however, in the least, fitted for such a station, and was soon willing to give it up. The people then began to wish for their rightful king; and, accordingly, Charles was sent for, from Holland, where he was then living; and he entered London on the 29th of May, which was his birth-day. This was in the year 1660. This is called the *Restoration*, and was principally brought about by general Monk, a brave soldier, who had long possessed great power in the army, and who now turned it to a good purpose, by employing it in support of his rightful sovereign. You know that, on the 29th of May, we still celebrate the Restoration, and carry about oak branches, in remembrance of the king's escape in the oak tree. But I must tell you more about king Charles the Second in my next letter.

Ever yours.

QUESTIONS.

After king Charles the First was beheaded, who exercised the kingly power in England?

Was Oliver Cromwell called king?

What was he called?

What sort of a man was he?

Was he successful in his wars?

What great admirals were there in Cromwell's time?

What success had admiral Blake at sea?

Who took the island of Jamaica?

Where is Jamaica?

Who was properly the king of England at that time?

Were any attempts made to put the young king in possession of his throne?

How did the Scotch succeed in this attempt?

What great battle was fought in England between the young king and Cromwell?

What became of the young king, Charles the Second, after the battle of Worcester?

Can you relate any of the particulars of his escape to France?

How did Cromwell treat the parliament?

After Cromwell had dissolved the parliament, what sort of a new one did he make?

Had Cromwell then all the power in his own hands?

Was he then happy?

How did he show his fears? and how did he endeavour to guard his person from attack?

Of what disease did he die?

In what year?
Who had the power after him?
What sort of person was his son, Richard Cromwell?
Did he keep the government long in his possession?
Were any steps taken to bring the king over from Holland?
Who was principally concerned in bringing back the king?
In what year did Charles the Second return?
On what day of the month?
In what way do we now call to mind the restoration of Charles the Second on the 29th of May?

LETTER XXVII.

MY DEAR BOY,

By the good management of general Monk, Charles the Second was brought back to England to take possession of the throne. The people had tried a new sort of government, but they found, by experience, that the best thing they could do was to go back to their old constitution again, and to give the crown to the rightful heir, the son of the king who had been so cruelly murdered. The young king accordingly landed at Dover, and he entered London on the

29th of May. This, as I have said, is called the *Restoration.* People of all ranks were pleased to have the kingly government restored again; and the second Charles was received with the greatest joy and delight. After all the troubles that this young prince had undergone, one might have supposed that he would have learned wisdom; but it was quite the contrary: he seemed to think of little else besides indulging his pleasures; and he encouraged all such sorts of people as were of loose and profligate characters like himself. In the time of Cromwell there was a great profession of religion in the country, and you will perhaps think that this was the best thing that they *could* profess. And so it was; but profession, you know, is not practice. I do not mean to say that all the professors of religion, at that day, were hypocrites: for I believe that many of them were indeed sincere men, and true Christians: but many of them had the language of religion in their mouths, whilst their conduct shows us that they had not the right principles of it in their hearts. The good Christians were earnest in their desire to give up those sinful pleasures and vanities which are such hindrances to true

religion; and there were many others who were willing to join in this strictness of outward behaviour, who yet showed no signs at all of the temper and spirit of real Christians. Now the way to cure wrong religion, is to introduce right religion: to be as earnest in the cause of truth, as others are in the cause of error; and to show which *is* the true religion, by the effect which it produces in regulating our hearts, in teaching us kindness and gentleness of temper, and in rendering our conduct upright, and pure, and good. But Charles the Second had no notion of this way of proceeding. He seemed to think that the best way was to encourage every kind of gaiety and profligacy, and to let the people be as careless and thoughtless about religion as they pleased. This is a sort of doctrine the people are always willing enough to listen to; and this kind of teaching is sure to get abundance of followers. There is no grace wanted for this kind of work: nature itself is quite sufficient. Accordingly, all the loose and profligate people were delighted with their new king. Charles, moreover, not only encouraged those who had no appearance of religion, but he harassed and persecuted those who had; and this,

of course, made those who were sincere still more persevering; though it forced, indeed, to the king's party, a few who were not worth having. You are not, however, to suppose that the king gave up all forms and all appearances of religion. Oh! no. There were preachers about him, and some very good ones too, who exhorted the people to obedience and to good works: but what can be expected from this, when that religious principle, that Christian faith, which is to be the foundation of all good works, is ridiculed and despised? And so, notwithstanding the exertions of many good and learned men, I believe there was no time when there was more vice and profligacy in this country, than in the "merry days" of Charles the Second.

But we must go on with our history. When Charles was restored, he seemed but little anxious to reward his friends, or to punish his former enemies. This arose probably from his easy temper, and love of pleasure, rather than from any other feeling. If he could get money for his pleasures, he cared for little else. He had an excellent minister, Lord Clarendon: but this good man was in no great favour with the king, as his wish was

to advance the prosperity of the country, instead of seeing it injured by the bad example and extravagance of the king The king married a princess of Portugal for the sake of her money, that he might be enabled to go on in his expensive profligacy. After this he got rid of his adviser, the earl of Clarendon, and took into his confidence a set of men better suited to his purpose. These ministers went by the name of the 'Cabal," because, I suppose, they were thought to be caballing together against the people ;—and the first letters of their names happened to make this word. They were, sir Thomas Clifford, lord Ashley, the duke of Buckingham, lord Arlington, and the duke of Lauderdale.

The people were, at that time, much dissatisfied: and it is likewise said that the Papists were contriving secret plans for murdering the king and regaining their power: there is a terrible story of a Popish plot, but it is told in so strange a manner, that we scarcely know whether to believe it or not, and it is too long for me to write to you about.

I must not, however, forget to tell you, that, in this king's reign, there was a terrible plague in

London. It broke out in the month of October, in the year 1665, and carried off, it is said, more than seventy thousand of the inhabitants.

The next year, on the third of September, another dreadful calamity happened in London. A fire broke out at a baker's shop, near London-bridge, which lasted three days and three nights, and reduced a great part of the city of London to ashes: it is said that thirteen thousand dwelling-houses were destroyed, besides eighty-nine churches; and that the ruins covered 436 acres of land. These are dreadful calamities, however indifferently we may think about them at this distance of time. One benefit, however, did arise out of the fire; the new streets were built much wider than the old ones, and thus the city was rendered more airy and wholesome, and the danger of the plague was thus greatly lessened. I most sincerely believe that every thing in this world is brought about by the direction of an Almighty Providence, and I believe that, however mysterious his dealings may sometimes appear to his people, yet in the end they will be all found to be for their good. At the same time I am not

fond of attempting to declare the particular design of Providence in any event that happens; for we cannot form any certain judgment on the subject: but, when we are disposed to indulge in such considerations, we cannot help thinking that, by the fire and the pestilence, the Almighty punished a profligate nation for its sins; but that, in his mercy, He made this visitation productive of good in the end. Since the time of rebuilding the city, London has been no more visited with the plague.

In the year 1685 the king was seized with a sudden fit of apoplexy; he was bled, and appeared better, but he survived only a few days afterwards. He died in the fifty-ninth year of his age, and the twenty-fifth of his reign, reckoning from the time of his restoration. It is said that he was attached to the Roman Catholic religion; for when some Clergymen of the Church of England came to him during his illness, he paid very little attention to them, but he listened to the Catholic priests, and received the rites of the Church from them. Whatever his religion was, it produced but little effect on his conduct,

and *his* could not, therefore, be anything like true religion.—But I must conclude.

Believe me, my dear boy,
Your affectionate father.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did you say that Charles the Second was restored to the throne of England?

And what general did you say was the chief instrument in restoring him?

Where did the king land?

What is the return of king Charles called?

Were the people glad to have a kingly government again?

Had the king learned wisdom by his misfortunes?

Then what sort of character was he?

Were the profligate people pleased with the king?

Did he encourage religious people?

Was the reign of Charles the Second a time of wickedness and profligacy?

Was the king anxious to reward his friends who had supported him in the time of his misfortunes?

What excellent minister had the king?

Was lord Clarendon in great favour with the king?

Whom did the king marry?

Why did he marry her?

Did he get rid of his faithful minister, the earl of Clarendon?

Whom did he then take into his confidence?

What were the names of those ministers who were called the "Cabal?"

Was there not a supposed conspiracy against the king, called the "Popish plot?"

Are the accounts of this clear and satisfactory?

Do you remember in what year the great plague broke out in London?

How many persons are supposed to have then died of the plague?

What happened in the next year?

Where did the fire of London break out?

How long did it last?

How many dwelling-houses are supposed to have been destroyed by the fire?

How many churches?

How many acres of land is it said that the ruins covered?

Was the city of London improved after the fire?

Has London been visited by the plague, since the time we are speaking of?

In what year did the king die?

Of what disease?

How old was he?

What religion is it supposed that king Charles was attached to?

But do you think that he was really attached to *any* religion?

Why do you think he was not

LETTER XXVIII.

MY DEAR BOY,

AFTER the death of Charles the Second, his brother, the duke of York, became king. His name was James, and he was the second king of that name. We have already seen what pains the good bishops and other Christian men had taken to get rid of the Roman Catholic religion, and how they had suffered, in this cause, during the reign of queen Mary. Since that time, the Protestant religion was professed and established in this kingdom; but James the Second was not attached to the reformed religion; he was a Papist at heart; and it is moreover said, that he sent over to the Pope of Rome, and begged to put himself and his kingdom under his authority in all matters of religion. This, you may be sure, caused great discontent; and a rebellion broke out, which was headed by a young man, called the duke of Monmouth, who pretended to be the lawful son of the late king. People were so dis-

satisfied with James, that they willingly listened to this youth, and would have been very glad to have had him for their king, especially as he was a very fine, graceful, pleasing young man. He came over from Holland, and landed in Dorsetshire, with a small army, expecting to be joined by numbers of the discontented English. Many, indeed, did join him, but not enough to enable him to overcome the army which the king sent out against him. There was, however, a bloody battle fought at Sedgmore [1]; and, at one time, the young duke appeared to have a good prospect of success; but, in the end, the king was victorious—the rebels fled; about three hundred of them were killed in battle, and about a thousand in the pursuit; and thus an end was put to this rash expedition. The duke of Monmouth had no right whatever to the throne, and it was, therefore, a wicked act of rebellion in him to attempt to disturb the king or the country; but still his sad fate must excite our compassion. After the battle, he fled for his life. He rode for twenty miles, expecting every moment to be overtaken and seized. At length, his horse, exhausted with

[1] Near Bridgewater, in Somersetshire.

fatigue, could go no further. He was obliged then to alight and to proceed on foot; then, to avoid being seized, he exchanged clothes with a shepherd. He was soon completely worn out with hunger and weariness, and was obliged to stop. He lay down in a rough field, and covered himself with fern. The poor shepherd was soon found in the duke's clothes; and this discovery encouraged the pursuers to search more diligently for the duke himself. They pursued him with blood-hounds, and they found him in his dirty clothes, and in a most miserable situation, with raw peas in his pocket, which he had gathered in the fields, having no other food to keep him alive. He was then seized, and carried before the king; he earnestly begged for pardon; but it was denied him—he was tried, and condemned, and beheaded. When he was on the scaffold, he begged of the executioner to strike boldly, that he might not have to strike a second blow, as he had done in the case of lord Russell. But this, instead of giving courage to the man, put him into such a trepidation, that he could scarcely strike at all. After the first feeble blow, the duke raised his head from the block as if to chide him; then he

gently laid it down again: and the executioner struck him several times without any effect, and at length threw down his axe and gave up the attempt. The sheriff, however, obliged him to perform his office, and then, after two more blows, the head was taken off.

There was another rebellion going on at the same time in Scotland, under the duke of Argyle, which was intended to assist the design of the duke of Monmouth; but this was put down by the king's troops, and the duke himself was wounded and taken prisoner; he was found standing up to his neck in a pond of water. He was carried to Edinburgh[1]; and, after enduring great sufferings with a brave spirit, he was publicly executed.

The commanders of the king's army treated the prisoners which they took in battle with dreadful severity; and judge Jeffries, a monster of cruelty, showed every kind of savage barbarity in his treatment of those who were tried by him as rebels.

In religious matters, too, there was as muc

[1] The capital of Scotland.

cause for discontent. The king encouraged Popery; and if any clergyman attempted to preach against it, he was prevented from preaching at all, or of performing any of the religious duties of his parish.

A measure, apparently the very contrary to this, was next adopted. A declaration of indulgence to every sect and sort of religion was put forth, and liberty of conscience was to be proclaimed to all. This had the appearance of liberality; but the intention of the king is supposed to have been to give an opportunity to the Catholics of again getting into power; and, indeed, he at that time showed them many very particular acts of favour. By-and-by, it was ordered that this declaration of liberty of conscience should be read in all the churches of the kingdom. The clergy saw that this measure would be dangerous to the Protestant cause; and the greater part of them, therefore, refused to read the declaration. Seven bishops sent an address to the king, saying that they could not order their clergy to read the declaration, without acting quite against their own consciences, and betraying the Protestant religion. The king was violently angry

with them, and they were sent to the Tower. This made a great noise at the time, and the seven bishops received the congratulations and applauses of all the good Protestant subjects in the kingdom. They were afterwards tried for sedition at Westminster-hall; but the jury, after sitting up all night, returned into the court, and said, *Not Guilty*. There was a shout of delight through the whole hall, which was caught by the people on the outside, and presently spread through all London and its neighbourhood. It is said that the king heard it at Hounslow-heath, where he was encamped. When his majesty asked the cause of those rejoicings, he was told that it was "nothing but the soldiers shouting because the bishops were acquitted." "Do you call that nothing?" said the king; "but so much the worse for them."

When every thing seemed to be going on as ill as possible, the people began to think that the only way to preserve the Protestant religion, was to encourage William, prince of Orange, to endeavour to get possession of the kingdom, and thus to prevent all the evils which seemed to threaten it.

This prince had married the king's daughter, and, therefore, the thoughts of the people were naturally directed towards him; but they chiefly wished for him, because he was a Protestant.

He came over from Holland with a large army, and landed in Devonshire, on the 5th of November. He waited many days before he was joined by a sufficient force to give him much confidence in his attempt. At length vast numbers of the leading people of the country joined him, so that he seemed to carry every thing his own way. Poor king James was deserted by almost all his friends: and even his daughter Ann, with her husband, the prince of Denmark, went over to the party of William. When the king heard this, he fell into the deepest grief, and said, that even "his own children had forsaken him."

He was now advised to leave the kingdom. He sent away the queen and his little son; and they arrived safely in France: but the poor king was seized and brought back a prisoner. Soon after this, however, he contrived to make his escape from Rochester, where he was confined, and he then went to France.

As the king had thus abdicated (or given up)

the throne, it was agreed that the prince and princess of Orange should reign in his stead, under the title of king William and queen Mary. This change, which is called the Revolution, took place in the year 1688.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did Charles the Second die?
Who became king after him?
What relation was James the Second to Charles the Second?
Was James the Second a favourer of the Protestant religion, or of the Roman Catholic?
Was any rebellion raised against the king?
Who headed this rebellion?
Did the duke of Monmouth raise an army in opposition to the king?
Was any battle fought?
Where?
Which side conquered?
Had the duke of Monmouth any right to the throne?
What became of the duke of Monmouth, after the battle of Sedgmore?
Was the duke executed?
Was any rebellion going on, at the same time, in Scotland?
Who headed that rebellion?
What became of the duke of Argyle?

How were the prisoners, taken at Sedgmore and other places, treated by the commanders of the armies?

What judge tried the rebels, and how did he treat them, and what was his character?

Did the king try to encourage Popery?

How did he treat the clergy who felt it to be their duty to show what they considered wrong in the Roman Catholic religion?

Did the king soon after this, put forth a declaration of indulgence to every sect of religion?

Is it not supposed that he did this for the sake of opening a way for bringing back the Roman Catholics into power?

Was this declaration ordered to be read in all the churches of the kingdom?

Did any of the bishops resist this order?

How many?

What became of them?

Were they acquitted, or not?

Did the people rejoice greatly at their acquittal?

Where was the king?—Did he hear the sound of their rejoicing?—And what did he say?

Did the people turn their thoughts to any other person to be king, for the sake of preserving the Protestant religion?

Who was this?

How was William, prince of Orange, connected with the royal family of England?

Did this prince come over to England?

Where did he land?

In what year, and on what day of the month?
Was he joined by the people generally?
How did king James receive the tidings of the landing of the prince of Orange, and the desertion of his own children?
What became of king James?
Was the prince of Orange then chosen king?
Under what title?
What was the name of his queen?
What is this change of affairs generally called?

LETTER XXIX.

MY DEAR BOY,

We saw, in my last letter, that when James the Second abdicated the throne, king William and queen Mary were chosen instead of him. The people of England had such a wish to have a true Protestant king, that they rejoiced at getting rid of James, and having William and Mary in his stead. But it was not so in Ireland, where there were many papists, who still supported king James. He, therefore, went and joined his friends in Ireland; he found the old army steady in his cause, and he raised a new one in addition to it. This army harassed the Protestants, who

were friends of William, and caused many of them to fly for protection to Scotland and to England. About ten thousand of them, however, got into the town of Londonderry, in the north of Ireland, and there resolved to make a stand against their enemies. James then attacked the town; and there never was a braver defence than that which was made by the friends of William. The town was weak in its fortifications; but the men were brave and resolute; and they were determined to hold out to the last moment in defence of the town, and of their Protestant king. After defending the town for a long time, they began to be in great distress, and there was a great deal of disease among them for want of food. They supported their lives by eating horses, dogs, and every thing that could possibly be used for the purpose of sustaining life. At length, very happily, a ship with provisions was sent to their relief, and it succeeded in reaching the town, notwithstanding all the difficulties of the attempt, and all the pains which were taken to prevent it. After this, the siege was given up.

Still, however, James and his friends continued to harass the supporters of the Protestant cause;

till, at length, William determined to go over to Ireland, himself. The two armies met near the river Boyne: they were encamped on opposite sides of this river, and expected soon to come to an engagement. While William was riding along the bank of the river, he was seen by the enemy; and a cannon was fired at him. The shot killed several of his attendants, and wounded the king in the shoulder; and there was a report that he was dead, which caused great grief in his army. But William presently rode through his camp to show himself to his men; at which they were all restored to their good spirits, and ardent desire of victory. The next morning king William determined to try to force a passage over the river; this the enemy resisted, and so the battle began; and it ended in favour of king William and the English. This put an end to the hopes of James. Some of his friends, indeed, continued for a time to support his cause with great bravery. Many battles were fought; the last effort of the Catholics was in the defence of the city of Limerick, which they were at length obliged to surrender; and king William granted them favourable terms

James was, at this time, in France; for the king of France, Louis the Fourteenth, was his friend, and did all he could to restore him to his power in England; but every attempt failed. James lived a life of religious retirement till the year 1701, when, after a very tedious sickness, he died.

William was a great soldier; and he employed almost the whole of his reign in wars against France. His constitution was not strong, and his constant anxiety and exertions seemed to be wearing him away. He rode much on horseback for the sake of his health; and one day, as he was riding from Hampton Court to Kensington, his horse fell under him, and his collar-bone was broken. He was then carried back to Hampton Court, where his fracture was attended to. In the evening he proceeded to Kensington in his carriage, the jolting of which separated the bones again. They were afterwards replaced: but the king was in a bad state of health at the time, and every attempt in his favour turned out ill. He died in the fifty-second year of his age, in the fourteenth of his reign. This was in the year 1702.

Queen Mary died in the thirty-third year of her age, of the small-pox. This, as you know, is a very dangerous disease, if taken in the natural way. The art of inoculating persons for the small-pox, and thus rendering the disease more mild, was not then known in England. In our time, *vaccination* has been discovered by Dr. Jenner, which produces a disease still milder, scarcely to be called a disease; but which is generally found to prevent the liability to small-pox as effectually as inoculation.

Ever yours, &c.

Character of William the Third.

William the Third was of a middle stature; thin, and of a delicate constitution; subject to an asthma and continual cough from his infancy. He had an aquiline (hooked) nose, sparkling eyes, and a large forehead. He was a great warrior, but not a pleasing companion. He was considered to be religious, temperate, and sincere; but his ambition led him into continual wars.

QUESTIONS.

When king James had abdicated the throne of England, who was chosen in his place?

What relation was the new queen to king James?

What was the religion of king William and of queen Mary?

Did the English rejoice in having William and Mary, instead of James?

Why did they?

Were the Irish also glad of this change?

Why were they not?

Did king James go to Ireland?

What town was besieged by king James and his Irish supporters?

Can you mention any of the particulars of the siege of Londonderry?

Did James and the Roman Catholics of Ireland continue to oppose the Protestant army of king William?

Where was a great battle fought?

Which side was victorious?

In what city did the Irish Catholics make their last stand in favour of king James?

Where did James the Second reside during the latter part of his life?

Did the king of France lend him his assistance?

Who was king of France at that time?

Were many attempts made to restore king James to the throne of England?

Did they succeed?

In what manner did James pass the latter years of his life, and where did he die, and in what year?

Was king William a great soldier, and was he, during a great part of his reign, engaged in war?

Against whom chiefly?

What was the cause of his death?

Where did he die?

In what year was this?

What was the cause of queen Mary's death?

LETTER XXX.

MY DEAR BOY,

In the last letter which I wrote to you, I told you that, after king James the Second had given up the crown of England, king William was chosen to be king in his stead. I think I told you, also, that queen Mary, William's wife, was the daughter of James the Second. Now there was no objection to having Mary for a queen, for she was not a Papist, like her father; she had embraced the Protestant religion. King James had also another daughter, whose name was Anne; and, as she was a Protestant likewise, she was ap-

pointed to be queen, after the death of William; for William died without children. The rest of the family of James were not allowed to reign in England, because they still continued to follow the Popish religion. They made, indeed, several attempts to get possession of the kingdom, but could never succeed; for the people now saw the excellence of the Christian religion, as it is held by Protestants, and, therefore, it was settled, by law, that no Papist should be king of England. The male descendants of king James did, indeed, call themselves kings and princes of England; they are, however, usually called, by the English, *Pretenders;* but I may, perhaps, say more of them in another letter.

Queen Anne was thirty-eight years of age when she came to the throne.

I told you that the greater part of the last king's reign was taken up in wars; because the king was himself a great soldier: but we shall see that, even in the reign of Anne, there was a great deal of fighting too. The queen herself, it is true, could not be expected to fight; but she had a great general, the duke of Marlborough, and he fought a great many battles against the French, and

generally beat them. The French king, Louis the Fourteenth, thought, that when our king William was dead, and England was governed by a woman, he should have nothing to fear; but he soon found that he was deceived in holding this opinion; for the queen was determined to keep up the character of the country for bravery, and her friend, the duchess of Marlborough, encouraged her in this, and the duke fought for her; so that things were, perhaps, never carried on with more spirit in England than in the reign of queen Anne. Many battles were won, and many towns on the Continent were taken, and a great deal of honour was gained to the general, and the soldiers, and the nation; but whether any real advantage was got by these wars, or any addition to the nation's real prosperity or happiness, is a matter which I shall not pretend to determine.

The greatest battle which the duke of Marlborough fought was the battle of Blenheim. It was so called, because it was fought in the neighbourhood of the village of Blenheim, near the river Danube, in Germany. The duke gained a complete victory. The queen and the people were filled with joy at this success. The duke had a

grant given him of the manor of Woodstock, near Oxford, with a noble park. A splendid house was likewise built for him in the park; which belongs to the family now, and is called *Blenheim*, in honour of the duke's great victory.

But, whilst we are speaking of this great English general, and the brave English soldiers, we must not forget to mention the brave admirals and sailors too. At the beginning of queen Anne's reign, indeed, we were not so successful by sea as we have been since: I cannot, however, help telling you of the brave admiral Benbow; he fought like any English admiral of our own days; but his officers treated him most cruelly, and behaved quite in a different manner from what any of our naval captains would do now.

Admiral Benbow was placed near the West Indies with a fleet of ten ships to annoy the enemy's trade, and he was informed that the French admiral was in those seas, with a force equal to his own. He presently found the enemy's ships, and immediately formed the line of battle, and began the attack; but he soon saw that he was left almost alone to bear the whole fire of the enemy. The admiral, however, kept

fighting on till night, and he determined to resume the attack the next day. In the morning, he found, to his great dismay, that all his ships, but one, had fallen back. Still, however, this brave admiral, with only one ship to assist him, continued to pursue and engage the enemy, for four days. The last day's battle was more furious than the rest, and in this, his leg was taken off by a cannon ball. He then ordered that they should place him in a cradle on the quarter-deck, and he continued to give his orders till his ship was so completely disabled that he could go on no longer.

When one of his lieutenants, during the fight, expressed his sorrow for the loss of the admiral's leg, "Yes," said Benbow, "I am sorry for it too; but I had rather have lost both my legs than have seen the dishonour of this day. But, do you hear? if another shot should take me off, behave like men, and fight it out." The admiral soon died of his wounds; and the officers who had deserted him were severely punished. Two of them were shot, by the sentence of a court-martial at Plymouth.

I must not forget to tell you, too, that it was

in queen Anne's reign that Gibraltar was taken. This is a town, as you will see in your map, at the very bottom (or south) of Spain. It was taken from the Spaniards by Sir George Rooke: you may be sure that this was not done without severe fighting, as the place is defended, perhaps, more strongly than any other place in the world. The English, however, took it, and they have kept it ever since; and, as you see that it is just at the straits, or narrow sea, by which the Mediterranean is entered, it gives us great power and command in that sea.

There are so many things to write about in this reign, that it is impossible to give you an account of them all, in my short letters; and, if I were to attempt to describe all the battles that were fought, and all the politics of the day, and the changes of ministers, and the Whigs and the Tories, and other things of this nature, you would not at present, perhaps, take much interest in such things. I must not, however, forget to tell you, that it was in this reign that the union of Scotland and England was made. You know that James the First of England was also king of Scotland. He was lawful heir to both kingdoms:

and, since that time, the two kingdoms were governed by the same king; but still they were separate kingdoms, and had different parliaments. It was, however, thought likely to be an advantage to them both to have them united under one government; and this, after much debating and delay, was at last agreed upon. The greater part of the nation seemed to approve of the measure; and it appears to have answered their expectations, and to have been a great benefit to both countries.

In queen Anne's reign an act was passed for building fifty new churches in and about London. This was an excellent measure; for London kept increasing in size, and, therefore, there was not sufficient room to accommodate those who might wish to worship in the Established Church. It was, therefore, highly necessary to remedy this evil. When people neglect religious worship, they generally become forgetful of all religious duty, and are then led into the practice of any crime to which they may be tempted. Church-room should be provided for all, the poor as well as the rich, that they may attend if they please. If they then neglect the *duty* of religious worship,

—or rather, I should say, give up so great a *privilege*,—then they are themselves to answer for it; the fault will be their own, not that of the government.

A few only of these churches were, however, then built; and there has been a general complaint of want of church-room in the neighbourhood of London ever since: and it has been particularly felt in our own day, since so much has been added to the size of London within the last few years. Happily, however, many new churches have been lately built; so that we will now hope that no one need be absent from church for want of room:—what a happiness it would be if no one were absent for want of desire to worship God, to hear his word, and to learn his will!

I must, however, bring my letter to a conclusion. The poor queen, notwithstanding all the victories, and the prosperity of the nation, was harassed and tormented by the quarrels and jealousies and changes of her ministers: first one party was in favour, then another; then she found that those whom she considered as her best friends, were accused of laying plots and snares to oppose her wishes; and, during all these perplexities,

her health began to give way, and she had not strength to bear the fatigues and difficulties of state affairs. She sunk into a sort of insensible and indifferent state of mind; and all that the physicians could do seemed to be of very little use.

On the 13th of July, 1714, she seemed somewhat relieved by medicines; she rose from her bed about eight o'clock, and walked a little. After some time, casting her eyes on a clock that stood in her chamber, she continued to gaze at it for some minutes. One of the ladies in waiting asked her what she saw there more than usual; to which the queen only answered by turning her eyes upon her with a dying look. She was presently afterwards seized with a fit of apoplexy, from which, however, she was somewhat recovered by the assistance of Dr. Mead. She continued all night in a state of stupefaction. She gave some signs of life between twelve and one the next day: but expired the following morning, in the forty-ninth year of her age, after a reign of twelve years.

Queen Anne was married to prince George of Denmark; but we do not consider her husband

as king of England, because the crown came to queen Anne in her own right, and not in her husband's; and, therefore, she became reigning queen; her husband having nothing to do with the nation in the character of a king.

Anne died without children: she had had several, but they all died: it therefore became necessary to inquire who should reign after her. This question had already caused a good deal of debate during her reign; some people wished for the male descendants of James the Second; but those who were against the Papists, chose rather to look to another branch of the royal family who were Protestants; and these last were in favour of the elector of Hanover.

The first sort were called Jacobites, which means followers of James[1]; and the others were called Hanoverians, because they were in favour of the house of Hanover. There were many quarrels between these two parties, of which I need not speak just now. The nation, however, for the most part, were for the elector of Hanover, very wisely choosing to have a Protestant king.

[1] *Jacob* is the old name of James.

This king was George the First, of whom I intend to write to you in my next letter.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did queen Anne come to the throne?
Whose daughter was she?
Why was not the son of James the Second allowed to be king?
Were any attempts made in favour of the son of James?
Did the papists consider this person to be the rightful king?
What do we generally call him?
How old was queen Anne when she began to reign?
Was queen Anne much engaged in war?
Who was her principal general?
Who was king of France at that time?
Which is considered to be the greatest of all the many battles which the duke of Marlborough fought?
How did the queen reward the services of the duke of Marlborough?
What is the mansion called where the duke of Marlborough resides?
Where is it?
What admiral is much celebrated in the reign of queen Anne?
What is related of him during a sea engagement near the West Indies?
Where is Gibraltar?
When was it taken?
Who took it?

Was there much party spirit in this reign, between the Whigs and Tories?

What do you mean by the *union* between England and Scotland, and during whose reign was this made?

Was any thing done towards accommodating the people with church-room?

What was it?

Was the queen much disturbed by the disputes of her ministers?

Can you relate the circumstances of her death, and tell me in what year it happened?

Who was the queen's husband?

Was he considered as king?

Why not?

Did she leave any children?

Who succeeded her?

What do you mean by Jacobites?

LETTER XXXI.

MY DEAR BOY,

After the death of queen Anne, George the First became king of England. He was a German, but his mother was a grand-daughter of James the First; and his relationship to the royal family of England was the great reason

why he was fixed upon to be king: but, besides this, he was a Protestant, and an act of Parliament was therefore passed to make him king, the family of James the Second being excluded because they were Papists. George the First was fifty-four years of age when he became king of England: and this mature age gave the people great confidence in him, and he was joyfully received by the greater part of the nation. Kings, however, as well as their subjects, have their troubles; and the disputes among the ministers, and the quarrels about Whigs and Tories, and Jacobites and Hanoverians, were at this time a great torment to the king, and to all the country. Some of the people were still friendly to the son of king James the Second, who, as I have already told you, was called the Pretender, and many attempts were made to get the kingdom out of the hands of king George, and to give it to *him*. Many of the principal lords and great people were concerned in a conspiracy to restore the Pretender, and especially the Scotch lords, who still clung to the Popish religion, and did all they could to oppose king George and his government. The earl of Mar raised an army in Scotland in

support of the Pretender, and he was assisted by lord Lovat, and other powerful people; but his friends forsook him, and the duke of Argyle was sent with an army to oppose him, and there was quickly an end of this attempt. After this, the rebels, under the earl of Derwentwater, made an attempt in the north of England, and were joined by the Scotch, and got as far as Kendal in Westmorland, and took possession of the town; but they were soon driven from this place; and, in short, all the attempts of the Pretender and his friends seemed to come to nothing. This is what is called the rebellion of seventeen hundred and *fifteen*. There was one afterwards, in the time of George the Second, in favour of the Pretender, headed by prince Charles his son, which is called the rebellion of *forty-five;* but, I may, perhaps, speak about that another time; I only mention it here that you may not confuse the two together. The Pretender's attempts in this rebellion of *fifteen* all failed, and many of the principal leaders were taken. They were brought to trial; and lord Derwentwater and several others were condemned to death, and beheaded on Tower-hill; and many more were hanged, drawn, and quar-

tered at Tyburn; several were executed at Preston and Manchester; and a vast number were transported to North America.

It was in the year seventeen hundred and twenty that a grand plan was set about, called the *South-Sea* scheme, which was to make every body rich that engaged in it; but, instead of that, great numbers were ruined by it: but this is an affair that I shall not trouble you about just now. We may observe, however, that there is always some scheme or other going forward which professes to make men rich; but, after all, plain honest industry and prudence are the best, and most frequently succeed; they will generally supply a man with what is sufficient, and they lead to no risks and desperate losses. Wherever there is any thing like gambling, it generally leads to ruin; or, if some few have got rich by it, I have observed that their riches seldom do them any good. And the truth is, that the money-making schemes in George the First's time, indeed, in many instances, introduced riches into the country; but these riches led to extravagance or covetousness, and a great deal of profligacy and wickedness.

As the king was elector of Hanover, as well as king of England, he felt it his duty sometimes to visit that country; and, whilst he was making a journey thither, he was taken ill. He had crossed the sea, and was travelling forward in his carriage. He had supped heartily one night, and appeared in perfect health: he went to bed, and set off early in the morning to pursue his journey. Between eight and nine, he ordered his coach to stop. It was soon perceived that he had lost the use of one of his arms. A gentleman who was with him attempted to quicken the circulation by rubbing it between his hands. But this seemed to do no good; and the surgeon, who followed on horseback, was then called, and he rubbed it with spirits. Soon afterwards, the king's tongue began to swell, and he had just strength enough to bid them hasten to the next town. He expired about eleven o'clock the next morning, in the sixty-eighth year of his age, and the thirteenth of his reign. This was in the year seventeen hundred and twenty-seven.

QUESTIONS.

Who reigned in England next to queen Anne?

What countryman was George the First?

How was he connected with the royal family of England?

For what reason was he made king of England, and the son of James the Second excluded?

What age was he when he came to the throne?

Was his reign free from troubles?

Were attempts made, during his reign, to restore the Pretender?

Who were the persons principally concerned in this attempt?

Who raised an army in Scotland in behalf of the Pretender?

Who commanded the English army in opposition to him?

Who afterwards led an army into England, and how far did they advance?

In what year was this rebellion?

Were any of the rebels executed?

In what year were great losses sustained in consequence of the South-Sea scheme?

Had the king any dominions in Germany, as well as in England?

Did he ever visit his Hanoverian dominions?

What occurred during one of his journeys to Hanover?

In what year did king George the First die?

How long had he reigned?

How old was he when he died?

LETTER XXXII.

MY DEAR BOY,

As I find that you pay attention to what I write to you, I must go on with my short History of England; though now we come so near to our own times, and have therefore accounts so much more particular of all that is going on, I hardly know what to fix upon for your amusement, that will come within the short compass of one of my letters.

George II., the son of George I., came to the throne in the year 1727. He took sir Robert Walpole for his principal minister, who had, indeed, been a leading character in the two former reigns. But I must not pretend to enter into the histories, or disputes, of the ministers and politicians of that day.

It was not long after George the Second began his reign, that war was declared against the Spa-

niards, which was chiefly carried on in their settlements in America. Then there was war with France, about which I do not now intend to enter into a particular account. But I must tell you of the rebellion of the year *forty-five*, when prince Charles (the son of the old Pretender), assisted by the king of France, landed in Scotland, and endeavoured to excite a rebellion against the government of king George, and to get his own family restored to the throne. At one time, indeed, there seemed to be some chance of his success; and the country was in a state of great agitation. As soon as it was known that the young Pretender had landed, the king's troops were sent to oppose him: they met at Preston Pans, not far from Edinburgh; and the young Pretender and his fierce Highlanders, who had joined him, attacked the king's troops with such fury, that they soon put them to flight. The young adventurer was then received at Edinburgh, as if he had really been the heir to the throne. He continued there for some time, and lost, in idle show, the advantage which he had gained by the battle of Preston Pans. However, he at length consulted with his officers, and it was agreed that they should march

into England, and accordingly, they did march forward, the prince and his followers in Highland dresses, till they actually got as far as Derby. When I was young, I remember to have conversed with several people who recollected the coming of prince Charles to Derby quite well, and the alarm that many people were in, to think that the rebels had got within a little more than a hundred miles of London.

The young Pretender, however, entirely failed in this expedition. In truth, the officers in his army did little else but quarrel amongst themselves; and the prince could not keep them together: he was disappointed in his hopes of having others to join him; so that his affairs were reduced to a desperate condition, and he was obliged to march back again to Scotland, to do the best he could with his wild and discontented troops.

The duke of Cumberland, the king's son, was then sent in pursuit of him; but he did not overtake him till he got to a place called Culloden, in Scotland: here they came to an engagement. In the battle of Culloden, the duke of Cumberland gained a most complete victory over the rebels,

slaughtering them in a most dreadful manner; and thus ended all the hopes of the young prince. After this, he wandered about the country, and was almost starved to death, for want of food and clothes; but he had many friends, who would not betray him, though they might have got very large sums for delivering him up to his enemies. At length he escaped in a vessel to France. He was dressed in a short coat of black frieze, threadbare, over which was a common Highland plaid, girt round with a belt, from which hung a pistol and a dagger. He had not changed his linen for many weeks; his eyes were hollow, his face pale, and his constitution greatly injured by hunger and fatigue. Several of the rebel lords and officers were executed; some of them were beheaded on Tower-hill, in London; others were hanged, drawn, and quartered on Kennington-common; and some at York and Carlisle; and so ended this rebellion. Among the most distinguished of the noblemen who suffered were lord Kilmarnock, lord Balmarino, lord Lovat, and lord Cromarty.

There was war during almost all the remainder of this king's reign. It was carried on against the French possessions in America, as well as in

Europe. The French made an attack on the island of Minorca, in the Mediterranean sea. Admiral Byng was sent with a fleet to the relief of the place, and, whilst he was considering how he could assist the English, the French fleet appeared; and the admiral seemed to be in great difficulties to know how to act. Whenever an enemy's fleet appears, the English, you know, generally are able to give a good account of it. It was not so here, however; the admiral let the French fleet escape from him. He was afterwards tried by a court-martial, and was shot on board a man-of-war, at Portsmouth, for not having done his utmost to destroy the enemy.

I must tell you about the *black hole* at Calcutta. One of the Indian chiefs made an attack upon the town of Calcutta, in the East Indies, which belonged to the English. He took the garrison, consisting of a hundred and forty-six men, prisoners. These poor creatures, instead of receiving the usual treatment of prisoners, were all crowded together in a narrow prison, called the black hole, only about eighteen feet square; and this was in the burning climate of the East, so that the greater part of them died of suffocation: for, out

of the hundred and forty-six which were shut up at night, there were only twenty-three found alive in the morning; and the greater part of these soon afterwards died of putrid fevers. The English, however, quickly regained possession of Calcutta, and made many other additions to their possessions in India.

You have heafd of the death of general Wolfe. This happened in America. The young general, who was only thirty-five, was carrying on a most desperate attack against the town of Quebec; and, after having overcome many dreadful difficulties, he received a shot in the wrist. He did not, however, leave his post, but wrapped his hand in his handkerchief, and went on, giving his orders as if nothing had happened; and, whilst leading forward his grenadiers with their bayonets fixed, another shot came and entered his breast. He fell, and struggling in the agonies of death, and just expiring, he heard a voice cry, "They run!" upon which he seemed, for a moment, to revive, and, asking "who ran?" was informed, "the French:" he then sunk on the breast of the soldier who supported him; and his last words were, "I die happy:" words expressive of the deep

interest which a good soldier feels, as to the success of his endeavours to benefit his country.

On the 25th of October, in the year 1760, the king was found by one of his servants dying in his chamber, at Kensington Palace. He had risen at his usual hour, and had taken a walk, with some of his attendants, in Kensington Gardens. In a few minutes after his return, when he was alone in his room, he was heard to fall down upon the floor. The noise of this brought a servant into the apartment,—and the king died a few minutes afterwards. This was in the thirty-third year of his reign, and in the seventy-seventh of his age.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did George the Second come to the throne?
Whom did he take for his prime minister?
Had sir Robert Walpole been in power during any of the preceding reigns?
Were there any wars during the reign of George the Second?
Against whom?
What is meant by the rebellion in the year *forty-five*?
What battle was fought in which the young Pretender was successful?
How was he received at Edinburgh?

What was resolved upon in a council of war, as to the prince's future plans?

Did the prince and the Scotch rebels come into England?

How far did they advance?

Were there disputes and dissensions among the Highland chiefs and officers who marched with the prince?

Did many people join him?

Did he march back to Scotland?

Who was then sent to oppose him?

What great battle did the duke of Cumberland fight, and which side was victorious?

What became of prince Charles after the battle of Culloden?

Can you relate the circumstances of his escape?

Did any of the Scotch lords suffer for joining in this rebellion?

Do you remember their names?

Did foreign wars continue during this reign?

What island in the Mediterranean sea did the French attack?

What English admiral was sent to the relief of this island?

Relate what you know about admiral Byng.

Can you remember the circumstances of the sufferings of the English soldiers in the black hole at Calcutta?

Where was general Wolfe killed?

What do you remember of the circumstances of his death?

In what year did king George the Second die?

Where did this occur, and what were the circumstances attending his death?

How long had he reigned?

What was his age?

LETTER XXXIII.

MY DEAR BOY,

In our last letter we proceeded as far as the death of George the Second, and we must now come to the reign of George the Third. The reign of this good king was the longest we read of in our history; he came to the throne in the year 1760, and continued, as you know, till the year 1820. I am old enough to remember a good deal of what happened in the early part of George the Third's reign; and most of us remember his latter days. The great length of this reign, and the knowledge which we have of all the particulars, would make a regular account of it a great deal too long for one of my letters to you; I must therefore be content with sending you such portions as seem most worthy of your notice.

You must remember that George the Third was not the *son* of George the Second, but the *grandson;* his father, Frederick prince of Wales, having died before the old king. George the Third was

married on the 8th of September, 1761, to a German princess. This was the excellent queen Charlotte, who lived to a great age, and died but a little while before the king. But I must now consider what are the principal subjects which I must attempt to touch upon.

It was about the year 1766, that the power of the English in the East Indies began to increase in a wonderful manner under lord Clive.

About the year 1768, we hear of the commotions excited by the election of John Wilkes for Middlesex: he seems to have been an unsettled, violent sort of man, and to have had great pleasure in raising disturbances.

In the same year, the Royal Academy in London was established by the king, to encourage skill and diligence among artists; and there is still an exhibition of pictures every year, in London, at Burlington House, Piccadilly [1].

You have often heard of Captain Cook; it was in this year that he set out, on his voyage round the world. You know that the world is round—like an orange—so that if a person sets off in one

[1] This exhibition was for several years held at the National Gallery in Trafalgar Square.

direction, and goes straight forward, he will come, in time, to the place from which he set off. Captain Cook finished his voyage round the world in about three years.

In 1772 he made another voyage, and returned in 1775. About this time, the American war broke out, and the first battle was fought between the English and the Americans. By this war we lost much of our power in America. I believe, however, we are quite as well without it. In the year 1776, the Americans declared themselves independent of the crown of England. General Washington was the great commander of the American army. In the year 1778, the French joined the Americans against the English. About this time died the earl of Chatham, who had been for many years a man of great weight and importance in the state. He was the father of Mr. Pitt, whom we so well remember.

About the year 1779, the *Spaniards* acknowledged the independence of America, and joined them against us, so that we had to fight against France, and Spain, and America, all at the same time. In this year, Captain Cook, in his third voyage, was killed by the native savages of

Owhyhee, an island in the Pacific Ocean. Look for this place in your map; and, indeed, for all the places you read of, if you do not know where they are—and even if you *think* you do.

You have often heard me speak of the riots in the year 1780. The mob was supposed to have been collected together and encouraged by lord George Gordon, in opposition to the parliament, which had granted some indulgences to the Roman Catholics. This mob pulled down all the Romish chapels in and about London; they also burned the prisons of Newgate, the Fleet, and the King's Bench, and many private houses besides; and they would probably have demolished the Bank, if they had not been stopped by the volunteers of the city of London, and some regular troops which were called in. About two hundred of the rioters were killed or wounded. Lord George Gordon was tried for this, but was acquitted, as it could not be proved that he had encouraged the mob to any of their savage violence.

In the year 1782, admiral Rodney greatly distinguished himself; he gained a signal victory over the French by sea, and was raised to the

peerage as a reward for his courage and success. In America, things went on very unfavourably for us.

I have already mentioned to you the situation of Gibraltar, and told you when it was taken by us; you therefore know that it lies just at the south point of Spain, and that it has long been in possession of the English. The Spaniards, you may be sure, were most unwilling that we should have possession of this place; and, about the time we are writing of, they tried to take it from us; but they could not now succeed, for General Elliot, the governor, with his boldness and his red-hot balls, put an end to all their attempts.

In the year 1783, peace was made with America. All parties seemed weary of this long war; and, as we were not likely to get any real advantage from it, the wisest and best thing we could do was to make peace.

The time of peace is the truly *happy* time for a nation, but it is accounts of wars and battles that fill our books of history, and perhaps make them the most *interesting*. There are many things, however, which excited great interest at the time they occurred, though you perhaps will not think

them much worth your notice now. However, I will send you a few of them.

In 1784 there was a strong contest about the Westminster election, between sir Cecil Wray and Mr. Fox.

I believe that Sunday-schools were first opened in the same year. The first of these was at Gloucester, established by an excellent gentleman, Mr. Raikes.

In 1786 a mad woman, named Margaret Nicholson, attempted to stab the king with a knife, as he was getting out of his carriage. This unhappy creature was confined in Bedlam, where she died only a few years ago.

About this time began the trial of Mr. Hastings, for supposed ill-conduct as governor of India. This trial lasted about nine years, and at last ended in his favour.

In the year 1788 the king was seized with a serious illness, so that he could not attend to the affairs of the nation. Happily, however, whilst arrangements were making about appointing the prince of Wales as Regent, his majesty recovered. There were rejoicings, and a general thanksgiving for this good news all over the kingdom; and the

king, like a pious Christian, went to St. Paul's Church to return thanks to the Almighty for having restored him to his family and his subjects. This was on the 23d of April, 1789.

About this time, the Revolution in France began. You have heard of the miseries which this occasioned, and the dreadful cruelties which were practised. The people talked much of liberty and equality, and held some strange and dangerous opinions. The people in France, it is true, had not the liberty which we have in England; but the methods by which they attempted to better themselves only reduced them to a much worse state. There seemed to be nothing but force and violence; the government of a furious mob, at one time; and, at another, the dreadful cruelties of their National Assemblies. These things went on for several years, with first one man at their head and then another: but almost all of them were monsters of cruelty. At length they made Buonaparte first consul: they gave him the title of *consul*, because they did not like the title of *king*. Afterwards he was made *Emperor;* so that, with all their complaints against arbitrary power, and all their opposition to their king, and all their

bloodshed, they were now under a more tyrannical government than ever they had been before the Revolution. There is a great deal to write about, during all the troubles in France; but, as these do not properly belong to English History, we need not attempt particularly to describe them. All nations, however, seemed so much interested in these things at the time, that we listened to the accounts which came over to us, as much as if they had belonged to our own country. You know that they beheaded their king, Louis the Sixteenth; this was in the year 1793[1]. Soon afterwards[2], they also beheaded the queen, as well as other members of the royal family: and, in short, they pursued their dreadful work, as if their only object was cruelty and bloodshed When these things began in France, there were people in England who seemed as if they wished to have a revolution here too: the miseries, however, which were experienced in France, taught us to be thankful for the blessings we enjoyed, instead of bringing troubles and distresses on ourselves for no purpose. I think we have quite

[1] January 21st. [2] October 15th.

as much liberty as is good for us: we have full liberty to do all that is right;—and I am sure we ought not to wish for liberty to do wrong. And as to equality, which during the French Revolution was so much spoken of, people are now grown wise enough to see that there can be no such thing. If we were all equal to-day, if all the property in the country were to be equally divided amongst us, we should not be all equal to-morrow. In a twelvemonth, an idle careless person would be in gaol, and a careful one would have doubled his property; so that there would presently be inequality again; there would presently be gentlemen, and there would be beggars.

You are aware that the nations of Europe did not look quietly on, and witness all the cruelties which were practised in France. They could not help seeing that their own states were in danger from the violence of the French, and the bad principles which they encouraged and spread abroad. The Austrians and the Prussians went to war with the French; and, about the year 1793, the English joined them. From that time, there was war for more than twenty years.

There was, indeed, a short peace[1] about the year 1802, which, however, lasted but a very short time[2], for Buonaparte was too ambitious to be long at peace. During this war the French overran almost all Europe: however, Buonaparte was at length completely beaten, by the duke of Wellington, at the battle of Waterloo in the year 1815. If I were not afraid of making my letter too long, I could tell you about the great battles that were fought at sea, when the British sailors showed that, whenever they fought, they made sure of conquering. There was a great victory gained by lord Howe, in the year 1794; and another, in the year 1797, by sir John Jervis, who was, in consequence of his bravery and skill, made lord St. Vincent. Then lord Duncan gained a grand victory over the Dutch fleet, in the same year; and in 1798, lord Nelson won the great battle of the Nile; and the same great and noble admiral lost his life, in 1805, at the battle of Trafalgar, after having completely beaten the French fleet. I could tell you of many more of our

[1] The peace of Amiens, March 27th, 1802.

[2] About a year.

gallant sailors who fought like true Englishmen during this long war; but I must be short. Our soldiers, too, showed themselves equally brave: and, when you grow older, you will read in a larger history of England, of all that they did in the battles in Spain and other parts of the world; and we all know how nobly they fought at Waterloo. I must, however, end my letter.

Our excellent king, George the Third, died in the year 1820, after a long illness, during which his late gracious Majesty, George the Fourth, then prince of Wales, acted as regent. I think I must now conclude my history, as you know what happened during George the Fourth's and the late king's reign as well as I do. I think you have tried to remember what I have written; and my letters will serve as an introduction to any larger history that you may meet with hereafter.

I am your affectionate father.

QUESTIONS.

In what year did king George the Third come to the throne of England?

Whose son was George the Third?

Was his father ever king of England?
Whom did he marry?
In what year?
About what time did lord Clive add greatly to the power of the English in India?
Who was John Wilkes; and about what time was it that the country was agitated by commotions on his account?
In what year was the Royal Academy instituted in London?
In what year did Captain Cook make his first voyage round the world?
How long was he in doing this?
Did he make a second voyage?
In what year?
How long was he absent?
About what time did the American war break out?
In what year did the Americans declare themselves independent of England?
Who was the great commander of the American armies?
What nations were opposed to us in the American war?
Did Captain Cook undertake a third voyage?
Did he ever return home?
Can you remember the circumstances of his death, and where he was killed?
In what year were the riots in London?
On what account?
Who was supposed to be principally concerned in these riots? and what steps were taken on the occasion?
In what year did lord Rodney gain a great victory over the French at sea?

Was an attempt made to take Gibraltar from the English?
Who was governor of Gibraltar at the time?
Was it taken from us?
In what year was peace made with America?
In what year was the contest between sir Cecil Wray and Mr. Fox for the representation of Westminster?
About what time were Sunday Schools established; and by whom, and where?
In what year was the king's life attempted by a mad woman; and what was her name?
When did the trial of Mr. Hastings begin; and how long did it last; and for what was he tried; and what was the result?
In what year was the king's illness?
About what time did the French Revolution begin?
In what year was Louis the Sixteenth, king of France, beheaded?
Did any of the nations of Europe go to war against the French; and which of them?
Can you remember who gained the principal naval victories during the war; and in what years?
When was the battle of Waterloo?
In what year did George the Third die?

ENGLISH SOVEREIGNS.

The following list of the Sovereigns of England shows that the present Queen of England is connected, by blood, with William the Conqueror,

and that *every* king or queen of England, since the conquest, has been so connected. Our young readers may be glad to see all these sovereigns in one point of view, and may have an opportunity of learning them by heart.

The following is the genealogy of the Sovereigns of England, from her present Majesty to William the Conqueror;—Victoria is the niece of William the Fourth, who was the brother of George the Fourth, who was the son of George the Third, who was the grandson of George the Second, who was the son of George the First, who was the cousin of Anne, who was the sister-in-law of William the Third[1], who was the son-in-law of James the Second, who was the brother of Charles the Second, who was the son of Charles the First, who was the son of James the First, who was the cousin of Elizabeth, who was the sister of Mary, who was the sister of Edward the Sixth, who was the son of Henry the Eighth, who was the son of Henry the Seventh, who[1] was the cousin of

[1] The above genealogy is copied from a newspaper paragraph.—The line is, however, broken in Henry the Seventh and William the Third; but is complete if traced through their queens.

Richard the Third, who was the uncle of Edward the Fifth, who was the son of Edward the Fourth, who was the cousin of Henry the Sixth, who was the son of Henry the Fifth, who was the son of Henry the Fourth, who was the cousin of Richard the Second, who was the grandson of Edward the Third, who was the son of Edward the Second, who was the son of Edward the First, who was the son of Henry the Third, who was the son of John, who was the brother of Richard the First, who was the son of Henry the Second, who was the cousin of Stephen, who was the cousin of Henry the First, who was the brother of William Rufus, who was the son of William the Conqueror.

A TABLE OF KINGS AND QUEENS OF ENGLAND,

FROM THE CONQUEST.

Kings and Queens.	Born A.D.	REIGNS BEGAN.	Reigned Y. M. D.	REIGNS ENDED.	Ages.	Where buried.
William Conq....	1027	1066 Dec. 25	20 8 15	1087 Sept. 9	60	Caen, Normandy
William Rufus..	1057	1087 Sept. 26	12 10 7	1100 Aug. 2	43	Winchester.
Henry I.	1068	1100 Aug. 5	35 3 27	1135 Dec. 1	67	Reading.
Stephen	1105	1135 Dec. 26	18 10 0	1154 Oct. 25	49	Feversham.
THE SAXON LINE RESTORED.						
Henry II.	1133	1154 Dec. 19	34 6 18	1189 July 6	55	Fontevrault.
Richard I.	1156	1189 Sept. 3	9 7 3	1199 April 6	43	Fontevrault.
John	1165	1199 May 27	17 4 23	1216 Oct. 19	60	Worcester.
Henry III.	1207	1216 Oct. 28	56 0 19	1272 Nov. 16	65	Westminster
Edward I.	1239	1272 Nov. 20	35 7 17	1307 July 7	67	Westminster.
Edward II.....	1284	1307 July 8	19 6 12	1327 Jan. 20	43	Gloucester.
Edward III.	1312	1327 Jan. 25	50 4 27	1377 June 21	65	Westminster.
Richard II.	1366	1377 June 22	22 3 7	1399 Sept. 29	33	Westminster.
THE LINE OF LANCASTER.						
Henry IV	1367	1399 Sept. 30	13 5 20	1413 Mar 20	46	Canterbury.
Henry V.	1389	1413 Mar. 21	9 5 10	1422 Aug. 31	33	Westminster.
Henry VI.	1421	1422 Sept. 1	38 6 3	1461 Mar. 4	49	Windsor.
THE LINE OF YORK.						
Edward IV.	1442	1461 Mar. 4	22 1 5	1483 April 9	41	Windsor.
Edward V.	1471	1483 April 9	0 2 16	1483 June 25	12	Unknown.
Richard III.	1443	1483 June 26	2 1 26	1485 Aug. 22	42	Leicester.
THE FAMILIES UNITED.						
Henry VII.	1456	1485 Aug. 22	23 7 30	1509 Apr. 21	52	Westminster.
Henry VIII.	1492	1509 April 22	37 9 6	1547 Jan. 28	55	Windsor.
Edward VI.	1537	1547 Jan. 28	6 5 9	1553 July 6	15	Westminster.
Queen Mary	1516	1553 July 6	5 4 11	1558 Nov. 17	42	Westminster.
Queen Elizabeth	1533	1558 Nov. 17	44 4 7	1603 Mar. 24	69	Westminster.
THE UNION OF THE ENGLISH AND SCOTCH CROWNS.						
James I.	1566	1603 Mar. 24	22 0 3	1625 Mar. 27	58	Westminster
Charles I.	1600	1625 Mar. 27	23 10 3	1649 Jan. 30	48	Windsor.
Charles II.	1630	1649 Jan. 30	36 0 7	1685 Feb. 6	54	Westminster.
James II.....	1633	1685 Feb. 6	3 10 5	1688 Dec. 11	67	Paris.
William & Mary	—	1689 Feb. 13	13 0 20	1702 Mar. 8	—	Westminster.
THE UNION OF THE TWO KINGDOMS*.						
Queen Anne	1665	1702 Mar. 8	12 4 24	1714 Aug. 1	49	Westminster.
George I.	1660	1714 Aug. 1	12 10 10	1727 June 11	67	Hanover.
George II.	1683	1727 June 11	33 4 14	1760 Oct. 25	77	Westminster.
George III.	1738	1760 Oct. 25	59 3 4	1820 Jan. 29	82	Windsor.
George IV.	1762	1820 Jan. 29	10 4 28	1830 June 26	68	Windsor.
William IV.	1765	1830 June 26	6 11 25	1837 June 20	71	Windsor.
VICTORIA	1819	1837 June 20	Whom GOD preserve long to reign over us.			

* Ireland united to these Kingdoms, January, 1801.

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